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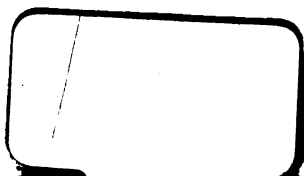
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THE
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OR NEW
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LESSONS
—
WRIGHT.



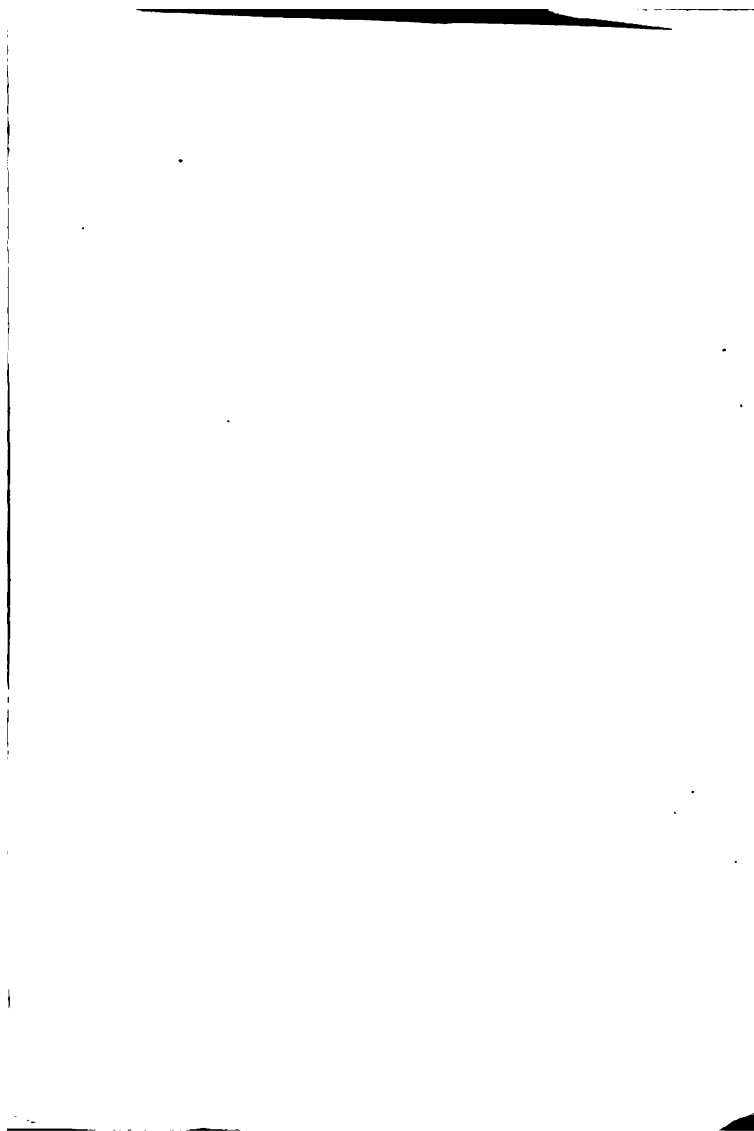
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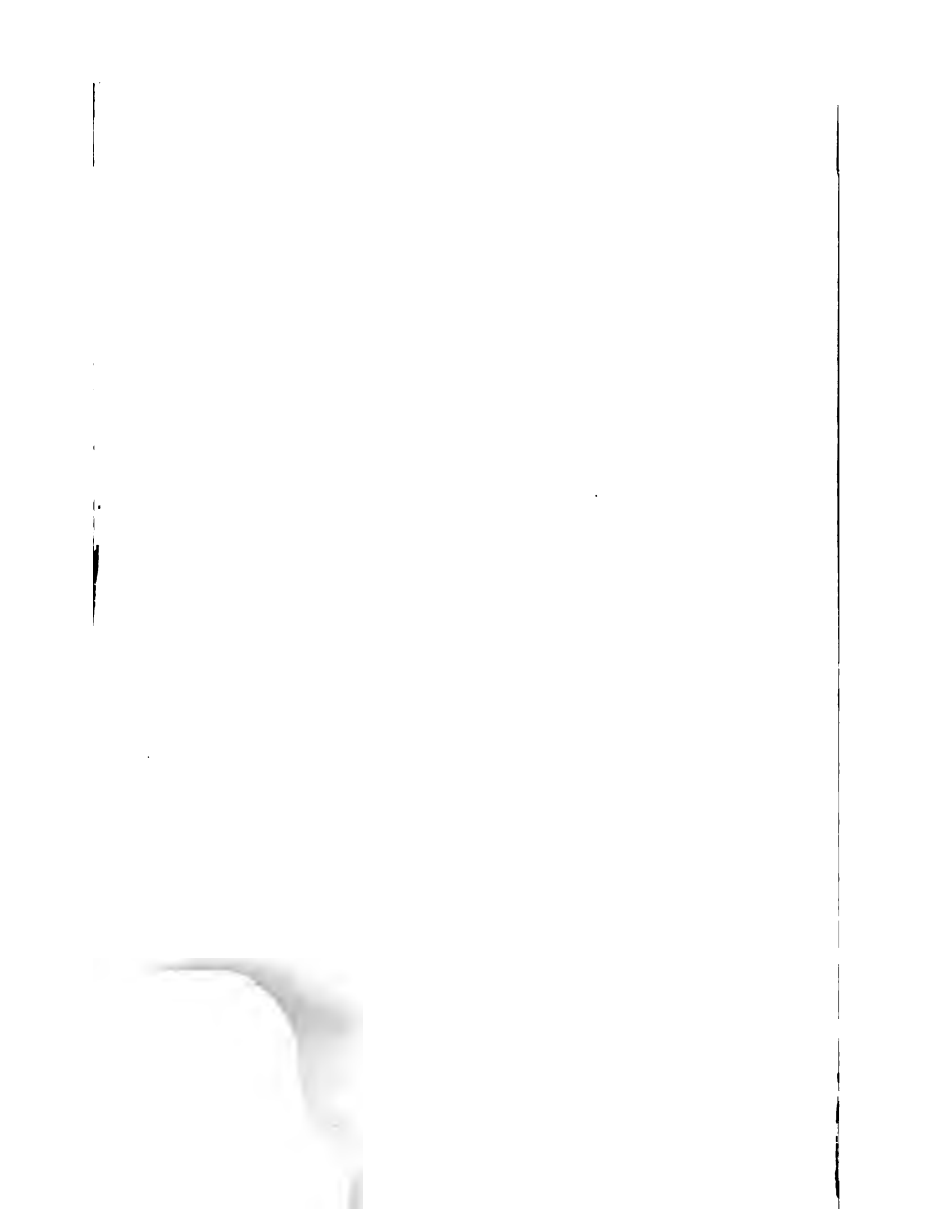
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THE ANCHOR OF HOPE.







THE
ANCHOR OF HOPE,

OR,

New Testament Lessons

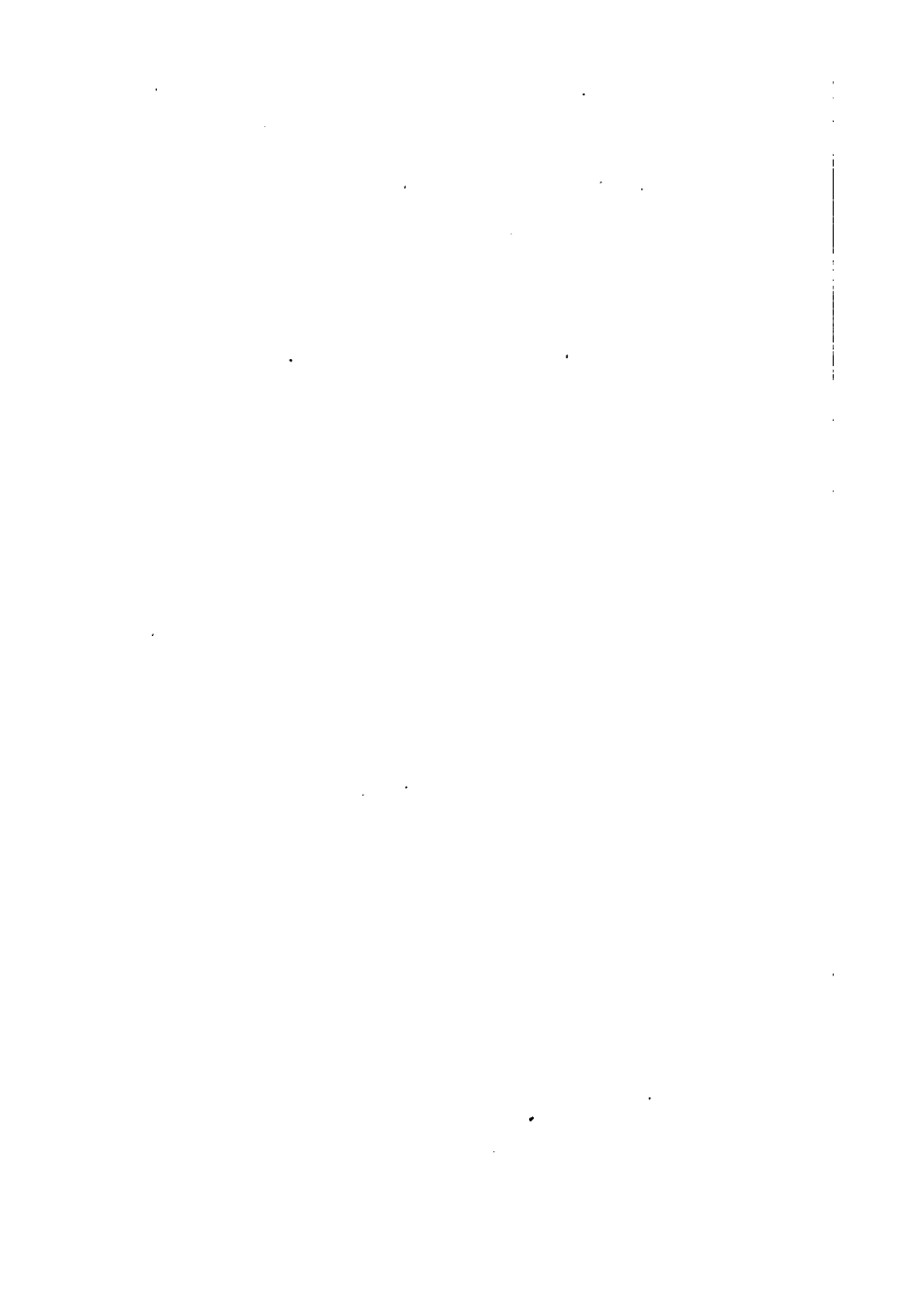
FOR CHILDREN.

BY MARIA WRIGHT,

AUTHOR OF THE "BOW OF FAITH."

With Illustrations.

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THE ANCHOR OF HOPE.



Front.

CHRIST DISPUTING WITH THE DOCTORS



Were they both written at the same time ?

No ; the Old Testament was written before Christ came into the world, and the New Testament was written after Christ had been in the world.

Is it a good thing for us that God has given us the Bible ?

Yes.

Why ?

Because the Bible is the only book in which we can read a true account of God and of ourselves.

Did the great God write the Bible with his own hand ?

No.

How was it written ?

God sent the Holy Spirit into the hearts of the prophets and the apostles, and taught them to write the things he wished men to know.

Who wrote the Old Testament ?

The Prophets.

Who wrote the New Testament ?

The Apostles.

Who were the Apostles ?

The disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why did they write the New Testament ?

That men might have a full account of our Lord and Saviour.

Is there anything about Jesus Christ in the Old Testament?

Yes; all the Prophets wrote about him, and all the holy men and women longed for the time when he would come upon the earth.

Why did they long so much for Christ to come?

Because they knew that it was written in God's word, that one day a great Deliverer would come, who would conquer the devil.

Tell me where God said this, and to whom he said it?

He said it about 4004 years before Christ came into the world, and he said it to the devil, after he had tempted Adam and Eve to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree.

Repeat the exact words God spoke at that time.

"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel:" Gen. iii. 15.

Did you ever learn these words before?

Yes; we learned them in our "Old Testament Questions."

Did I tell you in those questions that this was a difficult verse to understand?

Yes; you said that it was very difficult;

because there was a secret wrapped up in it, which no one could fully understand until Christ had died upon the cross.

What did I tell you that secret was?

You said it was this: "That one day the Son of the great God would leave heaven, and come down to earth in the form of a man; and that he would conquer the devil.

And could the people who had only the Old Testament understand this secret as easily as you and I can, who have both the Old and New Testaments?

No.

Why not?

Because the Old Testament is the lock, and the New Testament is the only key that will unlock it, and they had not that key.

And does the New Testament key exactly fit the Old Testament lock?

Yes; everything that was written in the Old Testament about Jesus Christ is explained so exactly in the New Testament, that a little child can understand it.

Who wrote the first four books in the New Testament?

St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John.

What name did they give to these books ?
They called them Gospels.

What is the meaning of the word Gospel ?
It means good news.

Why did they call these books good news ?

Because they knew that in them was written the good news that people had been longing to hear ever since the time Adam and Eve broke God's command and were turned out of Paradise.

And is the good news written in these books as good to us as it was to the people who first heard it ?

Yes ; it is still good news to every man, woman, and child, and will be so, as long as the world lasts.

What is the good news ?

“ That God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life :” John iii. 16.

Help us, gracious God, to praise thee
For the book which thou hast given ;
Surely all the world must praise thee !
For the news it brings from heaven.

Holy men and holy women,
With the angels bright and fair,
Longed to know the blessed tidings
Which are clearly written there.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

But to them this wondrous secret
Was but dim, and half revealed,—
For the key was long in coming,
And the treasures lay concealed.

But when he, the Lord of glory,
Came to live and die for men,
A child could read the prophet's story ;
Lock and key were fitted then.

Now the meek and humble spirit
May these precious treasures take ;
God the Father waits to give them
Freely, for the Saviour's sake.

.Second Lesson.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

LUKE II.

WHERE had Jesus Christ lived before he came down upon the earth ?

He had always lived with God in his eternal glory.

Was Jesus Christ with God when the world was made ?

Yes ; “ all things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made : ” John i. 3.

Who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ?
The Great God.

Whom did God choose to be the mother of Jesus Christ?

The Virgin Mary.

Why was she suitable for this great honour?

Because she was one of God's chosen people, and it had been written in the Old Testament, that the mother of Jesus should be a daughter of faithful Abraham, and one of the family of David. Gen. xxii. 18; Isaiah xi. 1; Jer. xxiii. 5.

Who told Mary that she was to be the mother of Jesus?

God sent the angel Gabriel to tell her.

Was she glad?

Yes; she said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour;" and she said, that "henceforth all generations would call her blessed."

Where was Jesus born?

In Bethlehem of Judea.

Was that where Mary lived?

No; she lived in a city called Nazareth.

Why was Mary at Bethlehem, when Jesus was born?

Because the Roman Emperor Cæsar Augustus had ordered all the people to go to their own cities to be taxed, and as Bethlehem was David's city, Mary was obliged to go there.

Why did Cæsar Augustus do this ?

Because he thought the Roman empire was the greatest in the world ; and he wished to know how many people there were in it, what was their employment, and how old they were.

When Cæsar Augustus did this, did he know that he was bringing to pass the very thing that the prophet Micah had foretold seven hundred and fifty years before ?

No ; he knew nothing about it.

What should you and I learn from this ?

That the hearts of all men are in God's hands, and that he can turn them just which way he will.

Who took Mary to Bethlehem ?

Joseph.

Who was Joseph ?

A very good man and Mary's husband.

Were there many people in Bethlehem at this time ?

Yes ; it was full of people.

Was there any room in the inn for Joseph and Mary ?

No ; the rich people had filled the inns, and as Joseph and Mary were poor people, they were obliged to find a lodging somewhere else.

What place did they go to?

Into a stable.

And was Jesus Christ born in a stable?

Yes.

What had he for a cradle?

Only the manger out of which the animals fed.

Children! what sort of beds do you think your mothers made for you, when you were born?

Nice cradles, and soft warm beds.

Then were you better off than God's dear Son?

Yes, for when he left his Father's home, in the glorious heavens, where angels worshipped him, the best place he found on earth was a stable and a manger.

If it had been God's will, could not Jesus Christ have come as a king, instead of a poor man?

Yes, because all things on earth belong to God.

Why did not God will it so?

Because, then what he had written by his prophets about Jesus would not have been fulfilled, and the key would not have fitted the lock.

Repeat what the prophet Isaiah says of Jesus.

"He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and

we hid as it were our faces from him ; he was despised and we esteemed him not."

When Christ came into the world did he suffer just like one of us ?

" He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed.

" All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, the Lord hath laid upon him the iniquity of us all : " Isaiah liii.

" He tasted death for every man : " Heb. ii. 9.

" He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin : " Heb. iv. 15.

What should we learn from this lesson ?

Never to murmur at our lot, but to remember—

If we are poor, Jesus was poorer.

If we have sorrow, Jesus was a man of sorrows.

If our houses are poor and mean, Jesus said of himself, " The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head : " Matt. viii. 28.

THE CRADLE HYMN.*

Hush ! my dear, lie still and slumber,
Holy angels guard thy bed !
Heav'nly blessings, without number,
Gently falling on thy head.

Sleep, my babe ! thy food and raiment,
House and home, thy friends provide ;
And without thy care or payment,
All thy wants are well supplied.

How much better thou'rt attended
Than the Son of God could be,
When from heav'n he descended,
And became a child like thee.

Soft and easy is thy cradle ;
Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,
When his birthplace was a stable,
And his softest bed was hay.

Blessed Babe ! what glorious features,
Spotless fair ! divinely bright !
Must he dwell with brutal creatures !
How could angels bear the sight !

Was there nothing but a manger
Cursèd sinners could afford
To receive the heav'nly Stranger :
Did they thus affront their Lord ?

* To be lulled to sleep by the immortal cradle hymn of Dr. Watts is one of the many privileges of English children.

Soft, my child, I did not chide thee,
Though my song might sound too hard,
'Tis thy mother sits beside thee,
And her arm shall be thy guard.

Yet to read the shameful story,
How the Jews abused their King,
How they served the Lord of glory,
Makes me angry while I sing.

See the kinder shepherds round him,
Telling wonders from the sky,
Where they sought him there they found him,
With his virgin mother by.

See the lovely babe a dressing :
Lovely infant, how he smiled !
When he wept, the mother's blessing
Soothed and hushed the holy Child.

Lo, he slumbers in the manger
Where the hornèd oxen fed :
Peace, my darling, here's no danger,
Here's no ox a-near thy bed.

'Twas to save thee, child, from dying,
Save my dear from burning flame,
Bitter groans, and endless crying,
That thy blest Redeemer came.

May'st thou live to know and fear him,
Trust and love him all thy days,
Then go dwell for ever near him,
See his face and sing his praise.

WATTS.

Third Lesson.

THE SHEPHERDS OF BETHLEHEM.

LUKE II.

IN the last Lesson you learned, that although Jesus Christ was the Son of God, he had no great house or costly clothes prepared for him, but that he came down to the earth to live amongst the poor. Now tell me whether there were any signs from heaven to let men know that the great, the long-expected Saviour was come amongst them?

God sent an angel from heaven to bear the good news to men.

To whom did the angel go?

To some shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks by night.

How does St. Luke say the shepherds felt when they saw the angel?

He says, "when the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone about them they were sore afraid."

What did the angel say?

"Fear not! for behold! I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord :"
Luke ii. 10, 11.

Did the angel give the shepherds a sign by which they might know Jesus?

Yes; he said, "This shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Did more than one angel speak to the shepherds?

Only one spoke to them; but directly the angel had told them where they would find Jesus, a great multitude of angels were seen in the heavens.

What did they do?

They praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will to man;" and directly they had sung this song they left the shepherds and went back to heaven.

Do you think the angels liked to be the bearers of this joyful news?

Yes; the angels always delight to do God's will; they love what he loves, and hate what he hates, and when they see men do God's will they are glad.

Repeat a text that shows this.

"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth:" Luke xv. 10.

What did the shepherds do when the angels left them?

They set off in haste to Bethlehem, to see

if the things the angels had told them were true.

Did they find the babe lying in the manger, according to the words of the angel?

Yes.

Did they keep secret the wonderful things they had seen and heard?

No ; they made it known everywhere, and returned to their own homes praising God.

THE SHEPHERDS.

The winter night was chill, as on a lonely hill

A few poor shepherds tend their flocks by night ;
Lest hungry wolf or bear the little ones should tear,
The livelong night a weary watch they keep.

But often to the sky they turned a longing eye,
Talking of him so long foretold to reign,
Whose kingdom should increase in holiness and peace,
And sorrow should depart with sin and pain.

When suddenly there came a bright and living flame,
That lit the night, and made it bright as day :
The shepherds, in surprise, scarce raise their dazzled eyes,
They knew not what to think or what to say.

But soon a lovely voice bade all their hearts rejoice ;
It was an angel sent from heaven's height.
He said that Christ had come from his eternal home,
And, like a helpless babe, was born that night.

He told them they would find the Saviour of mankind,
In swaddling clothes, within a manger laid ;
That peace and love had come to make this earth their
home,
That fallen man no more should be afraid.

Then all about the sky sweet music seemed to fly,
And angels' voices singing praise to God :
They sang good will to men, and then flew back again
To worship ever in their bright abode.

Fourth Lesson.

THE WISE MEN.

MATTHEW II.

Who was king of Judea when Christ was born?
Herod.

Was he the Jews' own king?

No ; the Jews had no king of their own at this time ; the Romans had conquered their country and made Herod king over them.

Is there any prophecy in the Old Testament which says the Jews would have no king of their own at the time Christ would be born ?

Yes ; Jacob said so, at the time he gave his blessing to his son Judah. Gen. xlix. 10.

What sort of man was Herod ?

He was a very bad man ; he had put to death his own wife and his two sons.

Did the shepherds go to Herod to tell him that Christ was born ?

No ; God sent another sign to let the rich and learned know the good news.

What was that sign?

It was a bright light in the heavens, like a star or meteor.

Who saw this sign?

Some wise men who lived in the East.

What did they do when they saw it?

They went to King Herod and said to him, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the East, and are come to worship him?"

How did Herod feel when they asked him this question?

He was troubled.

Why was he troubled?

Because he was afraid he should lose his kingdom, if there was so great a king born that God had sent a new star to let men know that he was come.

What did Herod do?

He called for the chief priests and scribes, and asked them in what place Christ would be born.

Where did they tell him?

In Bethlehem of Judea.

How did they know?

Because they found it written in the book of the prophet Micah. Mic. v. 2.

Who were the chief priests and scribes?

They were the chief men amongst the Jews, and they took care of the Old Testament.

When Herod had heard what the prophet Micah had written, what did he say to the wise men?

He asked them secretly all about it, and particularly inquired at what time the star appeared.

When they had answered his questions, what did he tell them to do?

To go to Bethlehem and search diligently for the young child, and when they had found him to bring him word, that he also might worship him.

Did they obey Herod?

When they had heard the king they departed, and lo! the star they had seen in the East went before them, and stood over the place where the young child was.

Were they pleased when they saw the guiding star again?

They rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Who did they see when they went into the house?

They saw the young child and his mother.

What did they do when they saw Jesus?

They fell down and worshipped him.

Did they bring anything to offer to Jesus?

Yes ; they brought gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

What is gold ?

It is the most precious metal there is.

What are frankincense and myrrh ?

Sweet gums.

Why were the wise men filled with joy on seeing the babe, and why did they bow down and worship him ?

Because the Holy Spirit told them in their hearts that this child was the Son of God and the Saviour of the world.

Did they go back to Herod and tell him they had found Jesus ?

No ; God appeared to them in a dream, and told them not to go.

Why did God tell them not to go ?

Because he knew all the thoughts of Herod, and that he did not intend to worship him, but to kill him.

Was Herod angry when he found the wise men did not return to tell him they had found Jesus ?

Yes, very angry ; and he killed all the children in Bethlehem and round about who were two years old and under.

Why did Herod do this ?

Because, as he did not know where to find

Jesus, he thought if he killed all the young children, he should be sure to kill him.

How did God take care of Jesus ?

He sent an angel to warn Joseph and Mary of the danger.

What did the angel say to Joseph ?

“ Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there till I bring thee word.”

Did Joseph obey the angel ?

Yes ; he arose and took the young child and his mother, by night, and went into Egypt.

How did they find money for the journey ?

God had prepared that for them, for, as the wise men were his servants, they had obeyed his order when they brought their gifts and laid them at the feet of Jesus.

Did they stay long in Egypt ?

They stayed there till Herod was dead, and then they came back, and lived in Nazareth.

What may we learn from this lesson ?

That God rules over all ;

That the angels are his messengers ;

That the stars obey him ;

That he can stop the plans of wicked men ;

That good men are his servants ;

That the silver and the gold are his, and

the moment he wants them, he can cause them to be laid at his feet.

On a night when all was quiet,
In that Eastern land afar,
Wise men, who the skies were watching,
Suddenly beheld a star.

Bright it seemed to them and glorious,
But it did not rise so high
As those stars that always glitter
In the blue and vaulted sky.

It appeared to bear a message
To these watchers of the skies
From the Lord, who in the heavens
Looks upon the truly wise.

'Twas not fixed, but glided onward,
As if sent to be their guide ;
And they rose and followed after,
Through a journey long and wide.

At Jerusalem they halted,
And the Saviour's birthplace learned :
Herod trembled in his palace,
Envy in his bosom burned,

But though wicked Herod trembled,
They were filled with great delight ;
And again they journeyed forward,
Guided by that starry light,

Past the palace of the noble,
Past the rich man's stately door,
Onward moved the friendly herald,
To a dwelling mean and poor.

There they found the royal infant,
 And their costly presents bring ;
 Gold, and frankincense, and myrrh,
 Offerings fittest for a king.

And they humbly bow before him,
 Whilst their wondering souls adore,
 Praising him who chose a dwelling
 With the meek and lowly poor.

Fifty Lesson.

JESUS WHEN A CHILD.

LUKE II.

Do the Apostles tell us much of Jesus when he was a child ?

Only St. Luke tells us anything about him.

What does St. Luke say ?

He says that Jesus grew, and became strong in spirit and filled with wisdom, and the favour of God was upon him.

What did the prophet Isaiah say of Jesus 700 years before he came into the world ?

"The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord : " Isaiah xi. 2.

Where did Jesus live?

In Nazareth.

When he was twelve years old, where did Joseph and Mary take him?

Up to Jerusalem, to the feast of the Passover.

What was the feast of the Passover?

A feast of the Jews.

What did they do at the Passover?

They killed bullocks and sheep and lambs as offerings to the Lord, and sprinkled their blood.

What were they to think of when they did this?

They were to look backward, and remember the time when God spared their first-born children in Egypt, and saved them from the wrath of Pharaoh; and they were to look forward to the time when Jesus, the true Lamb of God, would shed his blood upon the cross for the sins of the whole world.

How long did the Passover last?

Seven days.

Did many people go up to Jerusalem at the time of the Passover?

Yes, a great many; and for safety they travelled together in large companies.

When the feast was over, did Jesus leave Jerusalem with the company?

No, he stayed behind.

Did Joseph and Mary know this?

Not until they had travelled a whole day.

What did they do when they found he was not with them?

They sought him amongst their kinsfolk and acquaintance, and when they could not find him, they went back to Jerusalem.

How long was it before they found him?

After three days they found him in the Temple sitting amongst the doctors.

What was he doing?

He was listening to their instruction, he was asking them questions, and answering their inquiries.

Were they astonished at this wonderful child?

They were surprised at his wisdom, and delighted with his goodness.

Was his mother surprised to find him in the midst of the learned men?

She was amazed, and asked him why he had stayed behind, and said, "Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing."

What answer did Jesus give her?

He asked her why she had looked for him,

and whether she did not know "that he must be about his Father's business."

Whose business did Jesus say he must do?

His Father's; and the Father of Jesus is the Great God.

Did his mother understand him?

She did not perfectly understand him; but as she knew Jesus was the Son of God, she hid all these things in her heart, hoping one day she should understand them fully.

Did Jesus go back to Nazareth?

Yes; and was subject to his parents.

What does that mean?

It means that he was a dutiful child and did all they told him.

Did Jesus go on growing wise?

"He increased in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man."

Children, may you and I call God our Father?

Yes; all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ may call him their Brother, and God their Father.

If we are God's children, what shall we delight in?

We shall delight above all things to do his holy will, and strive every day we live to

become more and more like our elder Brother,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

LIKE JESUS.

You say you should like to be good,
In favour with God and with man,
Then listen, dear child, unto me ;
I'll tell you exactly the plan.

But first you must say in your heart,
" Lord, give me a teachable mind,
That I may delight in thy word,
And remember the verses I find."

Then read how, when Jesus was young,
His parents he learned to obey ;
Would always submit to their will,
And never contend for his way.

He had brothers and sisters like you,
To tease him and quarrel and fight ;
He never would quarrel with them,
Nor answer with railing or spite.

But helped them with cheerful good will,
And showed them the way to be wise ;
For he was as patient and good
As angels that dwell in the skies.

He prayed to his Father in heaven ;
His a spirit was earnest and true ;
Of him it could daily be said, .
In wisdom and stature he grew.

Now take his example for yours,
And try it again and again,
Then you will be happy and good,
In favour with God and with man.

M.

PART SECOND.

FROM THE BAPTISM OF JESUS TO HIS
DEATH—THREE YEARS.

FIRST YEAR.

Lesson Sixth.

JOHN THE BAPTIST.

MATTHEW III.; MARK I.; LUKE III.

WHO was John the Baptist?

He was a man sent from God, to prepare the way for Christ.

What did the prophet Isaiah say he would come for?

To prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isa. xl. iii.

Was John the Baptist poor, like his master Christ?

Yes; he lived in a homely way, and the Scriptures tell us that his food and his clothing were both poor.

How was he dressed, and what was his food?

His clothes were made of the coarse hair of

the camel, he wore a leathern girdle round him, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

In what place did he first begin to preach?

In the wilderness of Judea.

What did he preach about?

He told the people that he was the man of whom the prophet Isaiah had written, and that they must repent of their sins, because Christ was coming, and the kingdom of heaven was at hand.

Did many people go to hear him?

Yes; and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

When he saw the self-righteous Pharisees and the worldly Sadducees come to be baptised, what did he say to them?

He knew how full of sin their hearts were, and he told them that they must show that they repented of their sins, by doing well.

These Pharisees had a strange conceit that, as they were children of Abraham, they should not perish.

What did John the Baptist say to them about this?

He told them it was no good their boasting that they were the children of righteous Abraham, for God, if he willed, could raise up children to Abraham out of the very ones.

Did he say anything more to them about baptism?

He said that *he* could only baptise them with water; but that when Christ came, He would baptise with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

What did he mean by that?

He meant that when Christ baptises people he sends the Holy Ghost into their hearts to destroy the evil.

What did the people think of John the Baptist?

Some thought that he was Christ, some that he was a great prophet, and others that he was Elijah come again.

Did he take any honour to himself when the people asked him who he was?

No; he was careful to give all the glory to Christ, and told them he was only a messenger sent to prepare his way before him.

Did Jesus hear John preach?

He stood among the people, but they did not know him. John i. 26.

Was Jesus baptised by John?

Yes; when he was thirty years old he came to him to be baptised.

Did John like to baptise Christ?

No; he wished Christ to baptise him with the Holy Ghost, and said that he was not

worthy even to unloose the latchet that fastened the shoes of Jesus.

Why was Jesus baptised, as he had no sin to repent of?

To set us an example of obedience to God's word.

When the people were baptised, what did they do?

Confessed their sins.

What happened when Jesus was baptised?

When he came up from the water the heavens were opened, so that he could look into his Father's house.

What did he see?

He saw the Holy Ghost coming down like a dove, and it rested on him.

What did he hear?

He heard God's voice.

What did the voice say?

"Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."

Do the Apostles tell us much more of John the Baptist after this time?

Not a great deal, for his work was nearly done directly Christ came.

What do they tell us?

That he went about telling the people to

repent of their sins, till Herod threw him into prison, and at last beheaded him.

What did John know when he saw the Holy Ghost come down and rest upon Jesus, and heard the voice of God say that he was his beloved Son?

He knew that the long-promised Saviour was come, and he declared to the people that he whom he now baptised was the Son of God.

Was he glad?

Yes; and the next day, when he saw Christ coming to him, he said to his disciples, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."

It is not all the rich and great
Whom Jesus reckons good;
It does not need a fine estate
To be a child of God.

John Baptist was a poor man,
Of humble parents born,
His common food and dwelling
The rich and great would scorn.

He grew up in the desert—
Few people knew his name—
Till he was sent before the Lord,
His coming to proclaim.

He wore no handsome clothing,
No goodly raiment there;
A leathern girdle only;
And a coat of shaggy hair.

But people flocked to hear him,
And followed where he went ;
And unto all, both great and small,
He said, " Repent !—repent !"

And unto him, though lowly,
The wondrous sight was given,
To see the dove-like Holy Ghost
Descending out of heaven.

Though fettered in a prison,
In sorrow left alone,
The holy Jesus loved him,
And chose him for his own.

And when from prison darkness
The spirit took its flight,
The Saviour called him truly
A bright and burning light.

M.

Seventh Lesson.

JESUS CONQUERS THE DEVIL BY THE WORD OF GOD.

MATTHEW IV.; MARK I.; LUKE IV.

How long a time did Jesus remain on the earth
after his baptism ?

Three years.

What did he do during those three years ?

He went about doing good to all men : he
set us a perfect example to follow ; and he
died a painful death upon the cross, to save us
from everlasting death.

Where did he go immediately after he was baptised?

The Holy Ghost led him into the wilderness.

Why was he led into the wilderness?

That he might begin his great work of conquering the devil.

Who is the devil?

A fallen angel, and the enemy both of God and man.

How long had Jesus been in the wilderness when the devil came to him?

Forty days and forty nights; during which time he had eaten nothing, and was with the wild beasts.

Did the devil know that Jesus was the Son of God, and what he was come for?

Most likely he did; and that was the reason he wished so much to conquer him.

But was it at all likely that he would be able to do so?

Not at all; because Jesus was God as well as man.

How came the devil to try to do what was impossible?

His great pride puffed him up, and led him to hope that, as Jesus was come to earth in the shape of a man, he might perhaps be able to lead him into temptation and sin, as he had done Adam and Eve.

What was the first thing the devil said to Jesus?

He told him, if he were hungry, to show that he was the Son of God by making himself some bread out of the stones that laid there.

Why was this a very wicked temptation of the devil?

Because he wished by it, to put into Christ's mind hard thoughts of God, and make him think that his Father had brought him into the wilderness to starve him there.

How did Christ answer him?

He told him that men did not live by bread alone, but on the words of God.

What was the next thing the devil tried?

Christ allowed him to lead him to Jerusalem, and take him up to a high point of the temple, and when they were there, the devil told him to throw himself down, and try if it were true, that God would send his angels to take care of him.

Did Jesus do so?

No; he directly replied, that in God's book it was written that men must not tempt the Lord their God.

Did this discourage the devil?

No; he grew more bold, and told Jesus that if he would fall down and worship him, he would give him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory.

Could the devil do this?

No ; it was a lie : the devil is the father of lies, and has been so from the beginning.

What was the reply of Jesus to this lie of the devil's ?

He called him by his true name, and said, " Get thee behind me, Satan, for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Was this the devil's last temptation ?

Yes ; and directly he was gone, angels came and ministered to Christ.

What is God's Word called ?

The sword of the Spirit.

Was this the sword that Jesus fought with when he conquered the devil ?

Yes.

When the devil tempts men to think wrong thoughts, and do wicked things, what should they do ?

Follow the example of Christ, and fly to the Word of God for a sword to fight him with.

And will those who do this conquer the devil ?

Yes ; St. Paul says that " the Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword, that it can divide soul and spirit, and joints and marrow, and search out the depths of the heart : " Heb. iv. 12.

Into the wilderness the Saviour went,
And when with fasting he was nearly spent,
The devil came, on evil thoughts intent.

He came in all the impudence of pride,
With lies and blasphemies, to draw aside
One, who with all the Spirit was supplied.

He knew not yet how piercing was the sword
That in the Word of God is richly stored
For all who wish to glorify the Lord.

Those who would wish to conquer Satan well,
And drive him back to his abode in hell,
Must have this Word within them richly dwell.

Our Saviour said, God's Word to him was meat,
King David, that it was like honey, sweet,
And like a guiding lamp unto his feet.

This Word will make us walk in wisdom's ways,
Will give us strength for all our nights and days,
And fill our hearts with holy joy and praise.

Eighth Lesson.

JESUS GOES UP TO THE PASSOVER, AND
DRIVES THE BUYERS AND SELLERS OUT
OF THE TEMPLE.

JOHN II.

DIRECTLY after Jesus had driven the devil back to his own place, he returned to Galilee, to the country where he had been brought up, and there he chose his first disciples and worked his first miracle.

Who were the first disciples that followed Jesus?

Philip and Nathanael. John i. 43, 45.*

What was his first miracle?

He turned water into wine at a marriage in Cana of Galilee. John ii.

Did he remain long in Galilee?

No; he went down to Capernaum with his mother and his two disciples.

Did he stay long in Capernaum?

Only a few days, for the time of the Passover was come, and he went up to Jerusalem to keep it.

Where was this feast kept?

In the great temple where the Jews worshipped God.

When he went into the temple, what did he find there?

He found the people had made it into a market-place, and that they were selling oxen, and sheep, and doves, and changers of money were sitting there.

What did Jesus do?

He made a scourge of small cords and

* Simon Peter and Andrew at this time believed Jesus to be the true Messiah, but they did not follow him until their master John the Baptist was cast into prison. Matthew iv. 18—22; Mark i. 16—20.

drove them all out of the temple ; he poured out the changers' money, and overthrew their tables.

What did he say to them ?

“Take these things hence, make not my Father's house a house of merchandise.”

Whose house did Jesus call it ?

His Father's.

Who is the Father of Jesus ?

The great God.

Do you remember another time when he called God Father ?

Yes ; at the time when his mother found him amongst the doctors, hearing them and asking them questions, he asked her if she did not know that he must be about his Father's business.

Was it wrong of the Jews to be buying and selling in God's house ?

Yes, very ; they had become a covetous, proud people, and loved money and the praise of men more than doing the will of God.

You and I are not likely to make a market-place of God's house ; but we shall be quite as bad if, when we go to church to worship God, we think about other things and forget that the Lord knows our most secret thoughts.

How could Jesus all alone drive so many people out of the temple?

Because, no doubt, the power of the Lord shone through his face, and made them afraid.

Are people soon frightened if they are doing wrong things?

"The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but the righteous are as bold as a lion:" Prov. xxviii. 1.

Did Jesus do anything at the feast of the Passover to show the people that he was the Son of God?

He worked miracles.

Did they believe on him when they saw that he could give sight to the blind, and heal all manner of diseases?

Yes; many believed on his name.

Did Jesus trust these people with his thoughts?
No.

Why not?

Because when he looked into their hearts, he saw they are not yet ready to follow him.

What must people be willing to do when they begin to follow Jesus?

They must be ready to give up their own will, that they may do his will.

40 JESUS GOES UP TO THE PASSOVER.

What did the Jews expect Jesus would do?

Make himself a king, and make them a great and rich people.

Was this the reason that he did not trust them with his thoughts?

Yes; he knew they were not strong enough to bear to be told that the time was not come for him to be a king; but that now, his Father's business for him was, to live a suffering life, and die a painful death.

The business of Jesus was, to do all the will of God; what business have we to do?

Our business is to learn what God wishes us to do, and then to do it.

How can we please God?

We must love him with all our hearts, and believe that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world.

If we do this, what sort of people shall we be?

We shall be industrious, honest, truthful, kind and loving; and we shall remember that God's eye is upon us all the day long, beholding the evil and the good.

PRAYER.

Oh! holy Lord Jesus! Thou didst drive out buyers and sellers from the great temple which built for thy honour. Thou art good and

kind, pure and holy, and the place where thou dwellest must be like thyself. But I am a sinful child and have many evil thoughts and passions, which are as displeasing to thee as the buyers and sellers in thy Father's house. Be pleased to help me to drive out of my heart all those things that displease thee, and do thou make me a temple to thy praise. Amen.

Tenth Lesson.

BEING BORN AGAIN.

JOHN III.

Who was Nicodemus?

One of the people who believed on Jesus, when he saw the miracles he did at the feast of the Passover.

What was he?

A rich Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews.

When did he go to Jesus?

By night.

Why did he go by night?

Because he was afraid the Jews should see him, for he felt ashamed that they should know, that he thought a poor man like Jesus could teach him anything.

When he got to Jesus, what did he say?

He called him master, and said that they

knew he must be a teacher from God, because no man could do such miracles as he did except God were with him.

Did Jesus reprove him for being ashamed to go in the daytime?

No; he knew, although Nicodemus was ashamed now, the time would come when he would be bold in his service.

What did Jesus say to him?

"Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Did Nicodemus understand this?

No, he did not; so he asked Jesus if he meant, that no one could go to heaven who did not become a baby again.

What did Jesus say when he saw that Nicodemus did not understand him?

He said the same thing over again, but added a little more, to show that it was the soul must be born again and not the body.

Repeat the words of Jesus.

"Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

You may perhaps think that this did not make it easier for Nicodemus to understand, but it did, for all the people who had heard John the Baptist

preach, and seen him baptise with water, knew that he had told them that a mightier than he would soon come, who would baptise with the Holy Ghost ; therefore they were all expecting this great baptiser.

Can you see the wind ?

No.

Can you feel it ?

Yes ; and when it is very high and strong, it pushes so hard against us, that we cannot stand, and it blows down trees.

Do you know where the wind comes from, and where it goes to ?

No.

Tell me the next thing Jesus said to Nicodemus ?

After he had told him not to wonder that he must be born again, he said, " The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth, so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

What did Jesus wish Nicodemus to understand by this ?

That when the Holy Spirit comes down from heaven, no one can see it either come or go, any more than they can see the wind as it blows around them.

Although we cannot see the Holy Spirit come, can we see what he does?

Yes; when Jesus baptises with the Holy Ghost, it makes men's hearts clean, and they lead new lives.

Is that being born again?

Yes; when a man is born again, his soul is made new by the Holy Ghost; and then, instead of loving the devil and his ways, he loves God, and wishes to become like Jesus.

This was such a new thing to Nicodemus that he did not even then understand, so Jesus kindly began to teach him in another way, and, as Nicodemus was a Jew, he took a part of the Old Testament to teach him from.

Repeat what Jesus said.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life:" John iii. 14, 15, 16.

What were the Israelites dying from when Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness ?

From the poisonous bite of fiery flying serpents.

Could they heal themselves ?

No ; they had no power to do that ; so they begged Moses to pray to God for them.

What did Moses do ?

According to God's command, he made a serpent of brass, and raised it on a pole, and told the people to look at it.

Did they do as Moses told them ?

Yes ; and all who looked on the serpent were healed.

Was it the brazen serpent that healed them ?

No ; they were healed by the power of God.

Would they have been healed if they had not looked at the serpent ?

No.

Why not ?

Because by not looking they showed that they did not believe God's word, and it was their faith in that word, that brought the blessing of healing to them.

Do all people want to learn the same lesson as Nicodemus ?

Yes ; Jesus says now, to every man, woman, and child, just as he did to Nicodemus,—

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

What does this history teach us?
It teaches four things:

1st. That the sin in our souls is a worse poison than the poison of the fiery flying serpents; for, if we are not cured of it, we shall not enter the kingdom of God.

2nd. That we know of no way of curing ourselves.

3rd. That the blessed God and the Lord Jesus have made a way to cure us.

4th. That, as all the Israelites who believed the words of Moses and looked at the brazen serpent were healed, so everybody who believes that Jesus Christ has shed his blood upon the cross to save them will be healed of their sin, and when their bodies die, their spirits will go to God and dwell with him forever.

REGENERATION.

In the light thistle-down float o'er the valley
the sweet breath of the soft summer wind
and careering, now downward descending
were seeking a home to its mind.
dropped into a little dark cranny,
where it lay hidden securely from sight;
only knew the dark place it had chosen
that it saw dew in the silence of night.

But early in spring-time there peeped from the cranny
Some tender young leaves, that grew up very fast ;
They sprouted, and flourished, and budded, and blossomed,
And faded no more till the cold winter blast.

So the seed of the Word, by the Spirit enlivened,
Will make for itself in the sin-burdened heart
A sweet blooming garden, where virtue may flourish,
Where goodness shall blossom, and evil depart.

And into the garden the Master will enter,
To gather his fruits, and enjoy its perfume ;
The flowers will not fade, in the darkness of winter ;
He visits them ever, and keeps them in bloom.
M.

Tenth Lesson.

THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA.

JOHN IV.

AFTER the Passover feast Jesus remained some time in Judea, and many people followed him ; and, whilst he was there, John the Baptist came with his disciples to Ænon, near to Salim ; but when the disciples of John saw that the people began to follow Jesus instead of their master, they were displeased, and went and told him of it ; but, instead of feeling vexed, like his disciples, he told them this very thing filled his heart with joy ; for he knew that he must grow less, because he was only of the earth, but that Jesus would go on increasing in greatness, because he was from heaven.

Did John tell them anything more ?

He told them that God loved Jesus, and that he had given all things into his hand, and that now the time was come when every one who would believe that Jesus was the Son of God should have everlasting life ; but that all who would not believe, would have the anger of God resting on them. John iii. 35, 36.

Where did Jesus go when he left Judea ?
Into Galilee.

What country had he to travel through ?
Samaria.

What was the name of the town that he stopped at ?

“ Sychar, near to a parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.”

Was Jesus tired with his journey ?

Yes, he was wearied with his journey ; and, whilst his disciples went into the town to buy food, he sat down to rest by a well, which was called Jacob’s well.

Did any one come out of the city as he sat there ?

A woman came to draw water at the well.

Did Jesus speak to her ?

He asked her to give him some water to drink.

40 JESUS GOES UP TO THE PASSOVER.

What did the Jews expect Jesus would do?

Make himself a king, and make them a great and rich people.

Was this the reason that he did not trust them with his thoughts?

Yes; he knew they were not strong enough to bear to be told that the time was not come for him to be a king; but that now, his Father's business for him was, to live a suffering life, and die a painful death.

The business of Jesus was, to do all the will of God; what business have we to do?

Our business is to learn what God wishes us to do, and then to do it.

How can we please God?

We must love him with all our hearts, and believe that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world.

If we do this, what sort of people shall we be?

We shall be industrious, honest, truthful, kind and loving; and we shall remember that God's eye is upon us all the day long, beholding the evil and the good.

PRAYER.

Oh! holy Lord Jesus! Thou didst drive out the buyers and sellers from the great temple which was built for thy honour. Thou art good and

kind, pure and holy, and the place where thou dwellest must be like thyself. But I am a sinful child and have many evil thoughts and passions, which are as displeasing to thee as the buyers and sellers in thy Father's house. Be pleased to help me to drive out of my heart all those things that displease thee, and do thou make me a temple to thy praise. Amen.

Fifth Lesson.

BEING BORN AGAIN.

JOHN III.

Who was Nicodemus?

One of the people who believed on Jesus, when he saw the miracles he did at the feast of the Passover.

What was he?

A rich Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews.

When did he go to Jesus?

By night.

Why did he go by night?

Because he was afraid the Jews should see him, for he felt ashamed that they should know, that he thought a poor man like Jesus could teach him anything.

When he got to Jesus, what did he say?

He called him master, and said that they



Did she give him any ?

No.

Why did she not ?

Because Jesus was a Jew, and the woman a Samaritan ; and, as the Samaritans had a quarrel with the Jews, they had no dealings with each other, and she was astonished that he should ask her.

What did Jesus say next to the woman ?

He said, " If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink, thou wouldst have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."

What did he mean by living water ?

The Holy Spirit.

Was the woman surprised when Jesus said this to her ?

Yes, quite surprised ; and she did not know what he meant ; so she said to him, " Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep ; from whence, then, hast thou this living water ?"

How did Jesus answer her ?

He told her what must have surprised her much more, for he said, " Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again ; but whoso drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst ; but the water that I shall

give him shall be in him a well of water, springing up to everlasting life."

Did the woman understand this wonderful thing that Jesus said to her?

Most likely not; but, as she thought it would be a fine thing to have such water given her to drink, that she should never be thirsty again, she said to Jesus, "Sir, give me of this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw."

Children, this woman did not at all understand what Jesus was speaking of, and I think most likely that you do not understand his words any more than she did; because, no one can do so fully, until they are taught by God's own Spirit; but as I hope you wish to know, I will try to make you understand.

What do we want to keep our bodies alive?
Bread and water will keep our bodies alive.

Will bread and water keep our souls alive?
No.

What will make our souls alive?
The Holy Spirit.

If we are thirsty, what do we want?
Water.

If our souls are thirsty, will water do them any good ?

No ; a thirsty soul can only be satisfied by the Holy Spirit.

Is Christ willing to give the Holy Spirit to all who ask him for it ?

Yes, and he can give it, as easily as you and I can give a cup of cold water to any one who asks us for it.

Has he enough for every one ?

Yes ; if all the world should ask him, he has enough for all.

How does the Holy Spirit feed our souls ?

It makes God's words very sweet to us.

What did king David say about the words of God ?

He said they were sweeter than honey to his taste.

When Jesus spoke to this woman, did he mean he would give her water to drink, or that he would give her the Holy Spirit, to make her soul alive ?

He meant that he would give her the Holy Spirit.

When a man is born again, does God give him so much of the Holy Spirit that he does not want any more ?

No ; he will want it every day.

Will he be able always to get it ?

Yes ; God says, every one that is thirsty may go to him and drink.

Can you eat enough on a Sunday to last you all the week ?

No ; we want to eat many times every day.

Will hearing God's word on a Sunday be enough for our souls all the week ?

No ; we must feed upon the words of the Bible, and ask God to give us his Spirit every day that we live.

Are all people's souls dead that do not believe in Jesus ?

Yes ; they are dead in trespasses and sins.

Is that a sad thing ?

Yes, sad indeed ; for dead souls go to hell.

Did Jesus say anything else to this woman ?

Yes, he told her to go and call her husband ; and when she said that she had no husband, he told her he knew the sinful way in which she was living.

What did she reply, when she saw that Jesus knew all her life ?

" Sir, I perceive thou art a prophet."

Did she believe on Jesus ?

Yes, and she went back to the city, and said to the men, " Come, see a man that told me all things that ever I did ; is not this the Christ ?"

Did many of the Samaritans believe in Jesus ?
Yes, and they begged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.

What did the disciples do when they came back from the city ?

They begged him to eat ; but he told them that he had meat to eat which they knew not of.

Had any one brought Jesus anything to eat ?

No ; Jesus said that his meat was to do the will of God.

What should this teach us ?

To love God's word, and to do his will, better than eating or drinking, or any other thing.

THE LIVING WATER.

Dear Saviour, I can scarcely tell,
What may this living water be,
Which thou didst promise at the well
To give to all who ask of thee.

I love to see the sparkling stream
So bright, it almost seems alive ;
Yet, if I drink, I thirst again—
It cannot be what thou dost give.

This precious gift, whate'er it be,
On me, yet lovingly bestow ;
Oh ! Saviour dear ! I come to thee,
To teach me what I do not know.

L. S.

Eleventh Lesson.

JESUS GOES INTO GALILEE—HE HEALS A NOBLEMAN'S SON AND PREACHES TO HIS OWN COUNTRYMEN.

JOHN IV.

WHEN Jesus had stayed with the Samaritans two days, he continued his journey to Galilee ; he did not go to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, but he went to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine, for the people of this part of Galilee having seen that miracle, and the wonders he had done at Jerusalem, believed on him, and gladly welcomed him into their country.

Did Jesus reward their faith by working any other miracle ?

Yes, he healed a nobleman's son, who lay dying of fever at Capernaum.

Did the nobleman bring his son to Cana ?

No ; he begged Jesus to go down to Capernaum to heal him.

What did Jesus say when the nobleman begged this favour of him ?

He said, " Go thy way, thy son liveth."

Did the nobleman believe the words of Jesus ?

Yes ; and on his way home, he met his ser-

vants bearing the joyful news that his son was well.

What did Jesus do after this miracle?

He was strong in spirit, and he went all round about Galilee, working miracles, and teaching in their synagogues.

Did the people like to hear him?

Yes, and all glorified him.

Did he go to Nazareth on this journey?

Yes; but he did not many mighty works amongst them because of their unbelief.

What was one thing he did?

He went one Sabbath-day into the synagogue, and when he stood up to read, they gave him the book of the prophet Isaiah.

What part of the book did he read to them?

He opened at that part where the prophet Isaiah had written the things that Christ would do when he should come upon the earth.

Repeat the words the Lord Jesus read.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, and to

preach the acceptable year of the Lord:" Isaiah lxi. 1.

Did he teach them after he had read this to them?

Yes, when the eyes of all the people were fastened upon him; he told them that now all these things that the prophet had spoken of were fulfilled.

Did they believe on him?

No, they only wondered at his gracious words, and thought he spoke well; but their hearts were hard, and they were displeased that he did not work miracles amongst them,—as he had done in other places.

Why did they expect Jesus to work miracles for them?

Because he had been brought up among them.

Was this a good reason?

No.

Why not?

Because if they had not believed on him after seeing his holy life, it was not likely that any miracle would make them do so.

Did his preaching make them angry?

Yes; so angry that before he had finished his sermon, they rose up, and thrust him out of the city.

Where did they take him to ?

To the brow of the hill on which their city was built.

Why did they take him there ?

That they might throw him down headlong and dash him to pieces.

And were they able to do this wicked thing ?

No ; Jesus had not yet finished the work he came for ; therefore, although these furious wicked men were all around him, he passed through them, and went away.

PRAYER.

Kind heavenly Father! I am a little child, and do not know many things ; but I wish to thank thee for making me so strong and healthy, and that I am not like many other poor ill people that I see. I thank thee that I can run about, and work, and play, and that I can hear, and see, and talk. I should be very sorry to be ill and full of pain ; but if I am, I will come to thee, my heavenly Father, and ask thee to make me well again. I pray thee to help me to get a kind heart, that I may be gentle, and kind, and useful to all around me, and not be selfish and only wish to please myself. I beg that thou wilt make me more like Jesus, and that thou wilt hear all I have said, and do it for me, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Twelfth Lesson.

JESUS TRAVELS THROUGH GALILEE, HEALING THE SICK.

MATTHEW IV.; MARK I.

WHEN Jesus was driven out of Nazareth by his unbelieving countrymen, he went down to Capernaum; and as soon as he got there he went into the synagogue and preached to the people, and told them to repent of their sins and believe the good news.

Were the people of Capernaum of a different mind to the people of Nazareth?

Yes; and when they found that the power of the Holy Ghost went with the words of Jesus, and saw that by a word he could cast out devils, and that a touch of his hand would heal the sick, all the city followed him to the door of the house where he was.

What did they go for?

Some who were sick went to beg that he would heal them.

Some carried their friends to get him to lay his hands upon them.

And others came to see the mighty works he did.

Did he heal them all ?

He laid his hand on every one of them and healed them ; and the people of Capernaum then saw the words of the prophet Isaiah fulfilled, " Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

Did Jesus stay long at Capernaum at this time ?

No ; he rose up very early, a great while before it was day, and went into a desert place to pray to God.

Did the people follow him there ?

They followed him to beg that he would stay with them.

Did he grant their request ?

No ; he told them he could not, for he must go to other cities to preach the kingdom of God in them.

Where did he go ?

He went throughout Galilee, preaching everywhere, and working miracles.

Did many follow him on this journey ?

They came to him from all parts of the country, bringing their sick to be healed.

Did Jesus tell the people they must do anything before he would heal them ?

He only told them, that they must believe that he had power to make them well ; and

when he saw they did believe this, he spoke the word, and they were made well.

Did all the people who followed Jesus become his disciples ?

No ; a great many only followed him to see the miracles.

Was John the Baptist with Jesus ?

No ; he had been preaching in Galilee before Jesus went there, but now Herod had cast him into prison.

Why did not the people all become the disciples of Jesus, when they saw how good and kind he was ?

Because they could not make up their minds to be poor and despised ; and he told them that all who followed him must be willing to deny themselves.

Had Jesus any home ?

He said " that the foxes had holes and the birds of the air had nests, but that he had not where to lay his head."

Did any one love Jesus enough at this time to follow him ?

There were six men who were wise enough to give Jesus their hearts, and take him for their Lord and Master.

What were their names ?

Philip and Nathanael ; Simon, called Peter,

and his brother Andrew ; James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

How was it these men were wiser than the others that followed Jesus ?

They had read the prophets and were longing for Christ to come ; they had heard John the Baptist preach, and some had stood by when he said that Jesus was the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.

Was it a great privilege to be with Jesus ?

Yes ; they learned more from his holy example than all the learned men in the world could teach them, besides which they heard from his own lips all the will of God.

Throughout the coasts of Galilee,
The people ran the Lord to see,
They brought their sick, and prayed that he
Would heal them all.

Jesus, all merciful and kind,
Looked on them with a pitying mind ;
Beheld them sick, and lame, and blind,
And healed them all.

Dear Jesus, look upon us now ;
To thee our sinful hearts we bow ;
We come in faith, and trust that thou
Wilt heal us all.

Thirteenth Lesson.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

MATTHEW V.

WHEN Jesus had finished this journey through Galilee, he went back to Capernaum, and a crowd of people followed him, hoping they might get some blessing from this wonderful Physician and Teacher.

What did Jesus do when he saw this multitude?

He took this opportunity of teaching them a great many things, and he preached the sermon which is called the Sermon on the Mount.

Why is it called so?

Because Jesus was on a mountain when he preached it.

Was any one with Jesus on the mountain?

His disciples were with him, and a great multitude of people surrounded him.

Jesus knew every thought in that multitude, he could look into each heart, and see that all desired to be happy; and in this sermon he taught them the things that would make them so.

What do people generally think will make them happy?

Silver and gold, great houses and fine clothes, eating and drinking, singing, dancing, and laughing, and the things of this world.

Now repeat the first ten verses of our Saviour's Sermon on the Mount, and then you will see what sort of people Jesus says are happy.

3. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

7. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

8. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

10. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

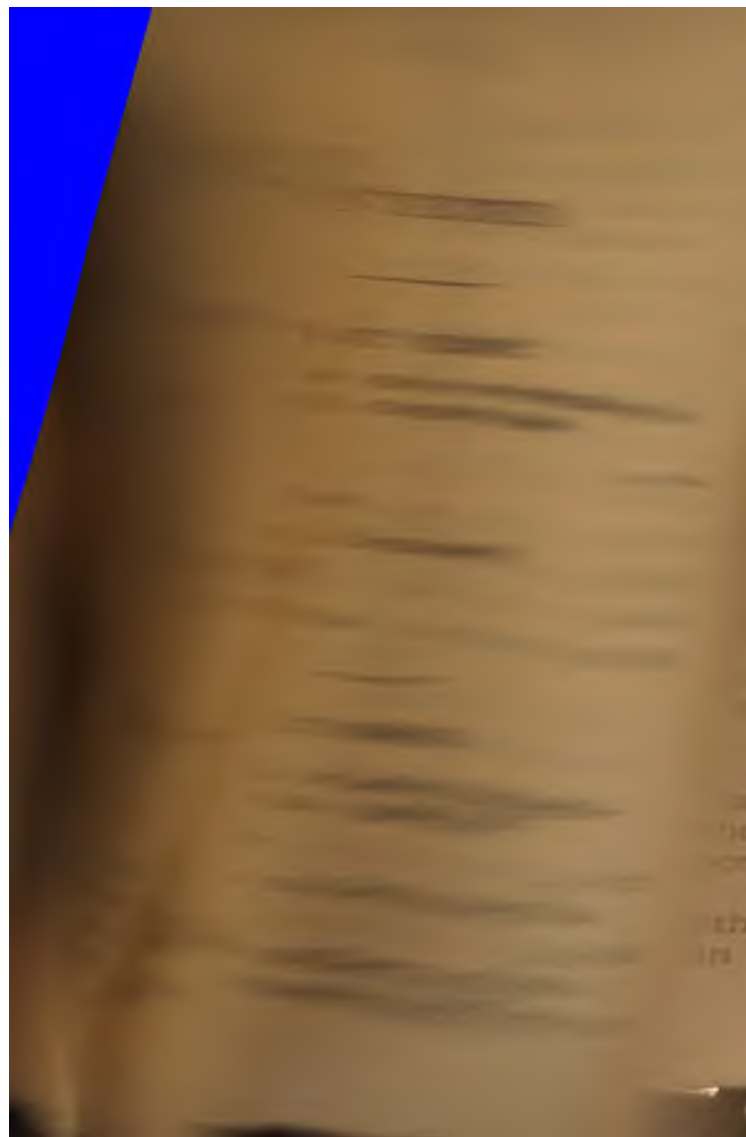
11. Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all

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manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Did Jesus preach this sermon for any one besides the people who heard him at that time?

He preached it for all the world.

If we take the advice which is in this sermon, what shall we do?

We shall try to be gentle and meek, and long to be righteous more than we long for food.

We shall be kind to those who are in sorrow, and long to have our hearts made quite clean.

We shall desire to make people love one another, instead of loving to quarrel and be unkind.

And if people are unkind to us, and do us harm, we shall return them good for evil, and rejoice to suffer, because it will make us more like our blessed Saviour, and his servants the prophets and the apostles.

If God sees we wish to become like Jesus, will he help us?

Yes; he will look upon us with great de-

light, and the Holy Spirit will come into our hearts, and every day make us more and more like the blessed, perfect Jesus.

What did Jesus tell his disciples they were?

He said, they were the salt of the earth, and the light of the world.

What is the use of salt?

We put it on our meat, to keep it good, and we eat it with our food to make it wholesome.

If we leave our meat without salt, and do not eat any salt with our food, what will happen?

Our meat will soon become bad, and we shall be obliged to throw it away; and when people cannot get salt to eat, they lose their health.

How were the disciples of Jesus like salt?

When they believed the words of Christ, their own souls were saved, and the Holy Ghost came into their hearts, and they went and told the good news to others.

Was this good news like salt?

Yes; the words of Jesus are so sharp and powerful, that when a man receives them into his heart, they will save his soul from perishing.

Who is the true light of the world?

Jesus is the "true light, that lighteth every man that comes into the world:" John i. 9.

Why, then, are the disciples of Jesus called the light of the world?

Because they had the words of Jesus, and knew the only right way to heaven—all the other people were in the dark.

How were they to show light in the darkness?

They were never to hide God's word, but hold it out to the people, just as a candlestick holds a candle, to give light in a house.

Were they to keep their light always bright?

Jesus said to them, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

What did king Solomon say about the paths of the wicked and the just?

"The path of the just is like a shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day; but,

"The way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble:" Prov. iv. 18, 19.

Jesus preached upon the mountain
Blessed words we all can read;
Springing from this living Fountain,
They are meat and drink indeed.

Let us prize these words as living
Treasures, to be richly stored ;
Telling of a sin-forgiving,
Merciful and gracious Lord.

There we read, as clear as ever,
All who seek the Lord shall find
God is love—and he is ever
Gracious, merciful, and kind.

Go to him, your sins confessing,
Tell the sorrows of your soul ;
Listen to the words of blessing,
“Son ! thy faith hath made thee whole.”

Fourteenth Lesson.

ON PRAYER.

MATTHEW VI.

It would be a good thing if we all were to learn the Sermon on the Mount ; and if while we were learning it, we were to pray the Holy Spirit to write it on our hearts, we should soon find these words of Jesus would give life to our souls, and we should become, like his disciples, lights in a dark world, and glorify our Father who is in heaven.

Did Jesus teach his disciples how to pray ?
He taught them the prayer that we call the
Lord's Prayer.

Repeat it.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed

be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven: give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and power, and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Before giving them these words, did he tell them the way they should use them?

Yes; he not only told them the right way to pray, but he also warned them not to pray like hypocrites.

What are hypocrites?

People who pretend to be what they are not, and wish to be seen at their prayers, in order that men may think them good.

Repeat the directions Jesus gave his disciples.

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and shut thy door, and pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father who seeth in secret, himself shall reward thee openly.”

If we pray in this manner, will God attend to us?

Yes; God is like a tender father, and knows all we want before we ask him; therefore, we need only very humbly beg him to give us what he thinks good for us to have.

How did Jesus encourage his disciples to believe God would take care of them?

He told them to look at the birds of the air, and see, that although they neither sowed seed nor stored away food, yet God always took care of them, and that the lilies of the field, although they could not weave clothes for themselves, were dressed more beautifully than king Solomon in all his glory.

May we call God our Father, and trust in him to take care of us?

King David says, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him."

And Jesus says in this sermon, "If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, much more will your heavenly Father give good things to them that ask him."

What is one of the things that God will give?
The Holy Spirit.

Will God give these good things to anybody?

To all who believe his word in their hearts, Jesus says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

What does he say we should ask for first?

"Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all needful things shall be given unto you."

What should we keep in mind when we pray ?
That God knows all we want before we ask
him.

That we must pray to him in secret, and,
not like the hypocrites, to be seen by other
people.

That we need never be afraid, because God
is like a tender father, and will give us all
things that are good for us.

The sky is blue, the sun is bright,
My heart is dancing with delight ;
The birds and flowers look happy, too,
And I am happy all day through ;
I thank my God for all his care.
Dear little child, those thanks are prayer.

But sometimes, though a child I be,
Both pain and sorrow come to me.
I bear alone my load of grief,
And no one near can give relief ;
Then I tell God of all my care.
Dear little child, and this is prayer.

My Saviour, I would be like thee,
In patience and humility :
But when I try, it seems in vain,
For still my heart is filled with pain ;
O Lamb of God ! my burden bear.
Dear little child, this, too, is prayer.

L. S.

Fifteenth Lesson.

THE LEPER HEALED.

DID many people follow Jesus when he came down from the mountain?

Yes ; for they were astonished at the wonderful words he spoke, and the wonderful miracles that he did.

Why were they astonished ?

Because he taught them like one who had authority, and not like their own teachers, the scribes and Pharisees.

Why was the teaching of Jesus better than that of the scribes and Pharisees ?

Because Jesus taught them the straight way to heaven, and the exact truth about God and their own souls ; but the Pharisees taught lies about God, and *their* chief wish was to be thought righteous, and to get all they could for themselves from the people.

Did Jesus work any miracle when he came down from the mountain ?

He healed a poor leper who came and fell down on his face before him, and said, " Lord ! if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean."

How did Jesus heal him ?

He put forth his hand and touched him, and said, " I will ; be thou clean."

Why did this poor man call Jesus Lord ?

Because he saw that he could do those works that are only done by God.

What is leprosy ?

A terrible disease which no doctor could cure, and when any one had it they were thought to be smitten by God.

What was it like ?

It first began inside the body, but by degrees it worked its way throughout, till at last it broke forth in dreadful putrid sores ; it made the hair fall off, it ate away the flesh, and sometimes it gnawed away the hands and feet.

Did this happen all at once ?

No ; it crept on little by little, till at last all beauty was gone, and people fled away frightened from the poor leper, lest they should catch the dreadful disease themselves.

What were lepers commanded to do ?

To keep quite alone, or only with poor creatures like themselves.

Anything else ?

Yes : they were to sit like people mourn-

ing for the dead, with their faces covered, and directly they saw any one coming near to them, they were to cry out, "Unclean! unclean!" to warn them of their danger.

Why was not Jesus afraid of touching the leper?

Because Jesus is the fountain of life, and instead of catching the deadly disease from the leper, he could, by his touch, give to him new life.

Could the touch of Jesus make the flesh come new again after the leprosy had eaten it away?

Yes; it came new like the flesh of a young child. Jesus had but to speak the word and it was done, just as it was at the beginning of the world, when God spoke the word and Adam was made out of the dust of the earth.

Now, children, think for a little while how glad this poor man was when he found one who had all the power of God, and was willing as well as able to make him clean; and never rest till you have knelt down and begged God to give you new hearts, and cleanse you from all your sins, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Did Jesus tell the leper to do anything after he was healed?

He told him not to tell any man of it, but

to go and show himself to the priest, and carry to him the things that Moses had ordered lepers to offer up when they were cleansed.

Did the leper keep the miracle secret?

No ; he was so glad that he blazed it abroad so much, that such multitudes flocked to Jesus to be healed, that he could no more openly enter the cities, but was without in desert places.

How did Jesus spend his time in the desert ?

In healing the people that came to him from all quarters, and in praying to God.

Hear the poor leper's sad and warning cry
To every traveller that passes by,
Lest for a moment they should cast their eye
Upon his loathsome form.

With covered face and all his garments torn,
He sits like those who dead relations mourn,
And all alone he weeps that he was born
To cry, "Unclean ! unclean !"

There he must sit and patiently endure ;
The priest pronounced him leprous and impure ;
And well he knows that only God can cure
This dreadful leprosy.

All beauty, hope, and happiness are fled,
His soul is filled with terror and with dread ;
His only hope of rest is with the dead
And he too longs to die.

But see ! a multitude is passing by,
And Jesus with that multitude draws nigh ;
Now raise thy voice, poor leper, cry ! oh, cry !
He hath the power of God.

'Tis done—those gracious lips but spoke the word—
Beauty, health, happiness, are all restored,
The now cleansed leper magnifies the Lord
And owns his power divine.

Sixteenth Lesson.

THE PALSY HEALED.

MATTHEW IX. ; MARK II. ; LUKE V.

THE people of Capernaum were often blessed with the presence of Jesus ; they had shown their love to him at the time when the men of Nazareth drove him out of their city, intending to dash him to pieces, and he rewarded them by often returning to dwell amongst them.

What should this teach us ?

That if we love Christ he will make our hearts his dwelling-place.

Does Jesus promise to do this ?

He says, "If a man love me he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come and make our abode with him :"
John xiv. 23.

Did Jesus take rest when he got to Capernaum?

He could not do so, for directly it was known that he was there, the people came in such throngs "that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them."

Did all kinds of people go to hear him?

Yes; and one day when he was preaching, there were Pharisees, and doctors of the law, and people who had come from every town in Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem.

What miracle did he work at this time?

He healed a man who was sick of the palsy.

What is palsy?

It is a disease that takes all the strength out of the limbs, and makes them tremble and shake so much that those who have it cannot use their hands or feet.

How did the man get to Jesus through the throng?

He could not get there of himself, but four of his friends carried him on a bed.

Could they manage to put the people aside and lay the poor cripple before Jesus?

No; they found they could not do this, for those who were close to him wished to keep there, so, after trying a little while, they gave it up, and thought of another plan.

What was that ?

They carried him with his bed to the top of the house and took off the tiling, and when they had done this they let the man down on his bed just before Jesus.

Was Jesus pleased to see the faith of this man and his four friends ?

When he saw their faith, he was much pleased, and comforted the man, and told him "to be of good cheer, that his sins were forgiven him."

What did the Pharisees and doctors of the law think when they heard Jesus tell the man that his sins were forgiven ?

They were displeased, and said in their hearts that Jesus blasphemed, for no one could forgive sins but God.

Did Jesus know their thoughts ?

Yes ; Jesus looked straight into their hearts and saw all they were thinking about.

Did he tell them so ?

He asked why they reasoned in that evil way ; and then, to show them that he could both forgive sins and make the man whole, he told the man to rise, and take up his bed and walk.

Was the man able to do what Jesus told him ?

Yes ; directly Jesus spoke the words, " I

say unto thee, arise!" he rose up before them all, took up his bed, and went away glorifying God.

What did the people think when they saw the man not only able to walk, but also strong enough to carry his bed?

Some glorified God, and said they had never before seen it in this fashion; and others were filled with fear, and said, "We have seen strange things to-day."

Did Jesus take rest after he had worked his miracles?

Jesus always went on doing good, and, like a flowing river, he carried a blessing wherever he went; and now at this time, when he left Capernaum, two more disciples joined themselves to his little company.

Who were they?

One was a tax-gatherer, named Matthew; the other was a publican, named Levi. Both these men left their business to follow Jesus directly he called them.

What does Jesus say to those who follow him?

"There is no man that hath left house or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present life, and the world to come life everlasting."

Children ! there is a thing
Far worse than leprosy,
Worse than a serpent's sting,
Though deadly that may be.

Worse than the halting foot,
Worse than the palsied arm ;
It is the spring and root
Of all our grief and harm.

Children ! this thing is sin,
Deep-buried in the heart ;
It hides itself within,
It lurks in every part.

The devil came with lies
And poured this poison in ;
And still from hell supplies
The seed of every sin.

There is but One can cure,
But one Physician can
The sinful heart make pure,
And wholly cleanse the man.

And no one need to fear
Who comes with living faith,
That Christ himself is near
To conquer sin and death.

Come, take him for your Lord,
Who can all sin forgive,
And hear this gracious word,
" Believe, and thou shalt live."

PART THIRD.

EVENTS IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE MINISTRY
OF JESUS.

Seventeenth Lesson.

THE POOL OF BETHESDA.

JOHN V.

THE time of the Passover was now come round again, and Jesus left Galilee and went up to Jerusalem to keep the feast with the rest of the Jews.

Can you tell me how many times Jesus had been up to the Passover before?

We know of but twice ; but most likely he had been many times with Joseph and Mary when he was a child.

Which times do you remember ?

The first was when he was twelve years old, and remained behind to converse with the doctors in the Temple.

The second was, when he drove the buyers and sellers out of the Temple, and told them not to make his Father's house a house of merchandize.

Repeat what you learned in the fifth lesson, the people were to think about when they kept the Passover.

They were to look backward, and remember the time when God spared their firstborn children in Egypt, and delivered them from the wrath of Pharaoh; and they were to look forward to the time when Jesus, the true Lamb of God, would shed his blood upon the cross for the sins of the whole world.

Why did Jesus go up to the Passover?

Because he came to fulfil all God's will, and to set us a perfect example of obedience; and, besides this, it gave him a good opportunity of teaching the multitude of people, who came from all parts of Galilee to keep the feast.

What was the first thing we are told he did when he got to Jerusalem?

He went to the pool of Bethesda.

Why?

Because he knew in that place he should find a good deal of misery and distress.

Did he find what he expected?

He found a great crowd of miserable people who were blind, lame, and withered, lying in the five porches that were built by the pool.

Why were they lying there?

They were waiting for the moving of the water.

How was this?

St. John tells us that "an angel went down at a certain season and troubled the waters, and whosoever first stepped in after the troubling of the waters, was made whole of whatsoever disease he had."

Was only one person healed when the angel moved the water?

Only one; so that those who could not move quickly had no chance of getting first into the water and being made well.

What did Jesus do when he got to this sorrowful company?

He singled out from amongst the sufferers one man who he knew had been ill thirty-eight years, and said to him, "Wilt thou be made whole?"

What was the poor man's reply?

He did not know that the One who spoke to him could heal him, so he said, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool; but when I am coming another steppeth down before me."

How did Jesus answer this sorrowful speech?

He said, "Rise, take up thy bed and walk,"

and at the same time that he spoke the words he gave him strength to do the thing which he told him.

What did the Jews say to the man when they saw him carrying his bed?

They told him it was not lawful for him to carry his bed, because it was the Sabbath-day.

Did he tell them that the same Man who had cured him, had also told him to carry his bed?

Yes ; but he did not tell them who it was, because he did not know, for Jesus left him directly he had worked the miracle.

Where did the man go after this?

To the temple of God, and there Jesus met him, and told him "To sin no more, lest a worse thing should come upon him."

When the Jews knew that Jesus had worked this miracle, were they displeased?

Yes ; and they sought to kill him because he had done this miracle on the Sabbath-day.

When Jesus knew this, did he go away?

No, he stayed, and told them his Father had worked hitherto, and that he worked, and that it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath-day.

Did this satisfy them?

No, it only made them more angry, and they sought to kill him because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said, also, that

God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

After this the blessed Jesus taught them many things, and told them that even now he had the power of God, and could restore the dead to life, and save the souls of all those who would believe on his word ; but that if they would not attend to him now, he said they would one day see him as their Judge, for the hour was coming when all that are in the grave shall hear his voice, and shall come forth,—they that have done good to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil to the resurrection of damnation.

Beside Bethesda's pool
A crowd of people lay,
In hope the spring would move,
And take their pain away.

And some had waited long,
Had waited, but in vain ;
For when the water moved,
It healed but one of pain.

Our Lord is better far
Than deep Bethesda's pool ;
For all who trust his power
He can, and will make whole.

All sickness he can cure,
All sorrow take away ;
Can cleanse from every sin,
And give them hearts to pray.

Go to the Saviour, then,
To him our God has given
His grace for men below,
And happiness in heaven.

Eighteenth Lesson.

THE DISCIPLES CALLED.

MATTHEW X.; MARK III.; LUKE VI.

NOTHING that the hard-hearted Jews and stubborn Pharisees could do, stopped the holy Jesus from doing good; and whilst the rich and idle lovers of this world despised him, he was followed by crowds of people, both poor and rich, who wanted to have their bodies healed, their sins forgiven, and to learn the right way to heaven.

Do the rich want a Saviour as well as the poor?
Yes.

Why?

Because all men, both rich and poor, have the plague of sin in their own hearts, and when they die they will have to give an account of everything they have done to God.

Is there no kind friend but Jesus who can heal us of this plague, and make us fit to stand before God?

No one but Jesus is able, as well as willing,

to make us fit to stand before God, and nothing but his blood can cleanse from all sin.

Did Jesus pity the multitudes who followed him?

Yes; for he knew they had no good teachers, but were like sheep wandering about that had no shepherd.

What did he do to help them?

He sent forth twelve disciples to teach them, and gave them power to heal all manner of sickness, and all manner of diseases.

What were their names?

Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas, and Matthew the publican, James the son of Alphæus, and Lebbæus whose surname was Thaddæus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

How did Jesus pass the night before he appointed these disciples?

He went into a mountain, and spent the whole night in prayer.

To whom did Jesus tell them first to preach?

The Jews had this privilege, because they were the children of faithful Abraham.

Did Jesus tell them exactly the errand they were to go upon?

Yes; he told them that wherever they went they were to preach, saying, that the kingdom of heaven was at hand; that they were to heal the sick, to cleanse the lepers, and cast out devils.

Were they to take money and clothes with them?

No, they were to take neither.

Why not?

Because he told them that the workman was worthy of his hire.

Did Jesus tell them that it was easy work they would have to do?

No; he said that he sent them forth like sheep amongst wolves, and that they must be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves, for they would be hated of all men for his sake.

Did he warn them of anything that would hurt them?

Yes; after telling them not to be afraid of those who could only kill the body, but not hurt the soul, he told them to fear him who could destroy both body and soul in hell.

What comfort did he give them?

He told them that the very hairs of their head were all numbered by God, and that, as

he did not let even a sparrow fall to the ground without his knowledge, he would surely take care of them, as they were worth more than many sparrows.

This seems a difficult errand that Jesus sent his disciples upon, and they would have been afraid if he had not prepared them for the worst; but when their Master was gone away, and they were brought before kings, and scourged, they were not troubled, because they remembered he had told them that the Spirit of their Father would come into them, and tell them what to say.

What will happen to those who deny Jesus before men?

He will deny them before his Father who is in heaven.

What will he do for those who confess him before men?

He will confess them before his Father and before the holy angels.

If we desire to be the disciples of Jesus, what must we be willing to do?

To take up our cross daily and follow him.

And if we do this, what does he tell us?

That we shall in no wise lose our reward.

Repeat a text to show this.

“ Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of

these little ones a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward :” Matt.

x. 42.

Widows and orphans come,
Christ is your friend ;
Come, all ye weary, come ;
Sick ones attend.

Hark to his gracious words :
‘ I will receive
Into my home on high
All who believe.”

Do not deceive him
Nor bring him a part ;
He must be the ruler
And Lord of your heart.

His eye is so piercing,
That e’en in the night
He sees every action
As though it were light.

The weights and the measures
He uses above
To try all our actions,
Are faith, hope, and love.

So come, all ye weary ones,
Sick ones attend,
And fly unto Jesus,
, Your husband and friend.

Nineteenth Lesson.

THE CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED, AND
THE WIDOW'S SON RAISED FROM THE
DEAD.

MATTHEW VIII.; LUKE VII.

IN a little book like this it would be impossible to tell half the works of Jesus ; but he never went into a town, or walked by the way, but he spoke holy words, and did such blessed works, that people who were not Jews began to believe on him, and amongst these was a captain in the Roman army.

Tell me what this captain was called.

A centurion.

What distress brought him to Jesus ?

A servant who was dear to him was sick, and ready to die.

Did he go himself ?

No ; he asked the elders of the Jews to beg Jesus to go to Capernaum to heal his servant.

How did the centurion show the faith he had in Jesus, and the humble view he had of himself ?

When he saw Jesus coming, he sent his friends to say that he did not feel good enough to receive Jesus into his house, but if he would but speak the word, he knew that his servant would be made well.

Did the centurion say anything more that showed his strong faith in Jesus?

Yes; he said that he knew that Jesus could send away the disease of which his servant was dying, as easily as he could himself send his servants and soldiers to do his business.

What did Jesus say to the centurion when he saw his faith?

“Go thy way, and as thou hast believed, so be it unto thee; and his servant was healed the self-same hour.”

The next day Jesus left Capernaum to go to the city of Nain, and when he came to the gates of the city he saw a dead man carried out.

Who was this dead man?

He was the only son of a poor woman who was a widow.

Was the widow alone?

No; a great many people of the city were with her.

Was it kind of the people to go with this distressed mother when she was going to bury her only son?

Yes; that was almost the only thing they could do at that time to comfort her.

Could Jesus do more for her than they could?
Yes; nothing is too hard for the Lord, for he is stronger than death.

Repeat what St. Luke says he did.

"When Jesus saw her he had compassion on her, and said, Weep not.

"And he came and stood by the bier and touched it, and said, Young man, I say unto thee, arise!

"And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak, and he delivered him unto his mother:"
Luke vii. 13—15.

How did the people feel when they saw this?

"A great fear came upon them, and they glorified God, and said he had visited his people."

Does Jesus look down with pity on widows and orphans now?

He promises to be a father to the fatherless, and a husband to the widow.

Repeat some of the names by which Jesus is known in the Scriptures.

He is called our shepherd, our husband, our friend, and our elder brother, and many more good names.

What did the relations of Jesus do when they heard of his works, and saw what a multitude of people followed him?

They tried to lay hands on him, and said that he was beside himself.

When Jesus was told that his mother and his brethren wanted to speak to him, what did he say?

“That whosoever did the will of God was his brother, and sister, and mother.”

What does the word whosoever mean?
Just any one.

Then may any one call Jesus Christ their brother?

All who do the will of God may call Jesus Christ their brother.

WIDOW OF NAIN.

Dry thy tears, widow,
Jesus is near—
Stop with your burden,
Set down the bier.
One is now drawing nigh,
Lord of the earth and sky,
He can make sorrow fly—
Jesus is near.

Close the dark sepulchre ;
Jesus is here.
There is no mourner now—
Be of good cheer.
“Young man, I say, arise,
Open thy sealed eyes :”
Death at his bidding flies—
Jesus is here.

And he rose and spoke—
Jesus was near.
People, astonished,
Press on to hear :
Then through the ringing sky
God's name they glorify,
The Lord of life is nigh—
Jesus is here.

Twentieth Lesson.

THE DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

MATTHEW XIV. ; MARK VI. ; LUKE IX.

Who was king in Galilee at this time ?
Herod Antipas.

Was he the same Herod who murdered the children at Bethlehem ?

No ; he was the son of that king Herod.

When Herod heard of the fame of Jesus, who did he think he was ?

He was afraid that it was John the Baptist (whom he had beheaded) risen from the dead.

This Herod was almost as wicked a man as his father, and one of the bad things he had done, was, that he had put away his own wife, who was the daughter of a king, and had married Herodias, his brother Philip's wife ; and when John told them the thing they had done was not lawful, they both

wished to kill him, and would have done so, had they not been afraid of the people, who thought John was a prophet. _____

Did Herod wish to kill John as much as Herodias ?

No ; for he feared him, because he knew that he was a just and holy man, and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

What did Herod do with John to please his wife ?

He threw him into prison.

Did this satisfy her ?

No ; for as long as John was alive, she did not feel safe ; so she kept up her quarrel till a convenient time should come to get her revenge.

How long had she to wait ?

About a year.

When did it happen ?

On Herod's birthday, at which time he gave a great supper to his lords and chief captains.

How did it happen ?

In a sad and foolish way ; for, when Herod and his lords had finished their supper and were merry, Herodias sent her young daughter Salome into the room to dance before them ; and this pleased Herod so much, that he

promised to give her anything she asked for, even if it were half his kingdom.

Did she tell him directly what she wished for?

No; she left the king, and went to her mother for instruction.

And what did this bloodthirsty woman tell her young daughter to ask for?

That the head of John the Baptist should be cut off, and brought to her on a dish.

Did Herod like to do it?

No, he was sorry; but, as he had been foolish and thoughtless enough to swear that he would give her whatever she asked for, he sent and beheaded John in the prison, and when the bleeding head was brought in, the young Salome carried it to her mother.

What was done with the body of John the Baptist?

His disciples took the body and buried it, and then went and told Jesus.

What became of Herod?

About seven years after this, he did something that displeased the Roman Emperor, who sent him away to a place in France, and there both he and his wife Herodias died.

Does any one know how Salome died?

It is said that, as she one day was going

over some ice, in the winter, that the ice broke, and she slipped in up to the neck, and the sharp ice cut off her head.

A PRAYER.

Kind Lord Jesus Christ, I am come to try to thank thee for my comfortable home, and for my comfortable bed, and for all my food and clothing. Thou, Lord Jesus, hadst not a home, nor a place to lay thy head; and when thou wast hungry and tired, and didst sit down by the well, and ask for some water, it was not given thee. I think I would have drawn thee some water, but I do not know; but I pray thee to make me kind and good to everybody, and obedient to my parents, and bless me, as thou didst those little children who came to thee when thou wast in the world, and help me to follow thy example, that I may please thee and my Father who is in heaven. And when I have anything to make me unhappy, I will come, like John's disciples, and tell it to thee.

Bless me, for thy mercy's sake, this day.
Amen.

Twenty-first Lesson.

ON A PARABLE.

MATTHEW XIII.; MARK IV.; LUKE VIII.

SUPPOSE I were to tell you an amusing tale, do you think you should listen to me, and remember what I said?

O yes!

How much do you remember of the sermons that you hear preached on a Sunday ?

Not a great deal.

Do you know why it is easier to remember a tale than a sermon ?

No.

Then I will tell you, the reason is this, when you hear a tale, you hear of men, women, and children, and all sorts of things that you can see. But in a sermon you hear of many things you cannot see: you hear of God, of Jesus Christ, of heaven and hell, and your own souls, none of which you have ever seen.

Did Jesus Christ always teach the people by preaching sermons ?

No ; he very often taught them by parables.

What is a parable ?

A sort of tale.

Is a parable like a common tale ?

No ; it is very different.

What is the difference ?

In a common tale, the people and things that are spoken of can be seen, and they mean exactly what they are said to mean, and no more ; but in a parable, all the people and things that are spoken of have a second meaning hidden in them, which cannot be seen.

Do parables make the things of God easier to understand ?

They make it easier to those people who wish to learn, but more difficult to those who do not care to learn about God and their own souls.

Did Jesus speak many parables ?

Yes, a great many ; and about this time he spoke five.

Where was he when he spoke them ?

He had left the house where he had been staying, and he was at the lake of Genesareth.

Did he stand on the shore to teach ?

No ; he sat in a boat, that he might be less pressed upon by the people, and that they might hear him better.

Repeat the first of these five parables—the Parable of the Sower—and then I will tell you the second meaning, that lies hidden in each thing named in the parable.

“ Behold, a sower went forth to sow ;

“ And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured them up :

“ Some fell in stony places, where they had not much earth ; and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth :

“ And when the sun was up, they were

scorched ; and because they had no root, they withered away.

“And some fell among thorns ; and the thorns sprung up and choked them.

“But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundred fold, some sixty fold, and some thirty fold :”
Matt. xiii. 4—8.

The sower that went forth to sow means Jesus Christ.

The seed that was sown means the word of God.

The different kinds of ground into which the seed fell mean the different kinds of men who hear God's word.

The hard road-side, means the hard-hearted men that never listen to God's word when it is read to them, and so the devil catches it away directly : just as the birds of the air pick up the seed of the sower, when it is not covered with earth.

The stony ground, which had just enough earth between the stones to let the seed spring up, but not enough to make it grow, is like those men that sometimes listen to God's word, but soon let any little thing make them forget it.

The ground that was so covered with thorns that it choked the seed, is like those people who let the things of this world take up all their time, so that they never attend to God's word at all.

But the good ground means people who love God's word, and are never tired of hearing it ; and

they wish above all things to do what is written in it, and what they know God loves.

When Jesus had spoken this parable, what did he say?

“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

What should this little sentence teach us?

To open our ears wide to listen to good things, but to run away when bad, idle things are spoken.

How can I be sure that I have told you the right meaning of this parable?

Because Jesus explained it himself to the disciples.

He also spoke another to them, which is called the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares. And this parable I wish you to learn, and as you learn it, I hope you will pray to God to sow the good seed in your hearts.

I've often sown a seed,
And watched it day by day,
Till through the heavy earth
It made itself a way.

And on the beaten path
I've often scattered seed,
And watched the little birds
Come shyly down to feed :

I saw them pick it up,
And quickly fly away,
Till not a seed was left
Upon the beaten way.

I did not then reflect,
And never should have thought,
That out of things like these
A parable was wrought.

I hope my heart will be
Like ground that's good indeed ;
And that the Sower there
Will sow his precious seed.

I hope no sinful thought,
Nor any evil thing,
Will hurt the tender blade,
But let it freely spring.

That it may bear a crop
Just like the one of old,
That from a little seed
Produced a hundredfold.

Twenty-second Lesson.

FEEDING THE MULTITUDE.

MATTHEW XIV. ; MARK VI. ; LUKE IX. ; JOHN VI.

SOON after the disciples of John had left Jesus, his own disciples came back from the journey he had sent them upon, and they gave him an account of all they had said and done.

How did Jesus show his careful kindness to his disciples at this time ?

He saw they were weary, and told them to go away into a desert place to rest themselves.

Why did they want rest ?

Because so many people kept coming and going, that they had hardly time to eat bread.

How did they try to get away from the people?

They took a ship and crossed over the Sea of Galilee, and by doing this, they expected to leave them behind.

And did this plan answer ?

No ; for when they saw Jesus and his disciples go away in the ship, they ran round to the other side of the lake, and went so fast that they got there before the ship.

Was Jesus angry at having his rest disturbed ?

No ; for he saw they were in earnest, and as he knew how fast they had run, and how far they had travelled from their own homes to hear him, he pitied them, and began to teach them many things, and healed many that were sick.

When his disciples saw the evening was coming on, and knew that in a desert place they could buy no food, what did they ask their master to do ?

To send the people away into the cities to buy something to eat.

Did Jesus send them away ?

No ; he told his disciples that they must give them something to eat, for if they sent

them away without food, they would faint by the way, for many had come from afar.

Did they think they could find enough food for such a multitude?

Not unless they went into the city to buy 200 pennyworth of bread, for they felt sure that the five barley loaves and two small fishes that they had with them, would not be enough for 5000 people.

Did Jesus tell them to go to the city to buy?

No; he told them to make the people sit down on the green grass in companies of fifty.

And when they were all arranged in this order, what did Jesus do?

He took the five loaves and two fishes, and looked up to heaven, and blessed and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes he divided amongst them all.

Had they enough?

They did all eat and were filled.

Was there any left?

Twelve baskets full.

Did they waste any?

No; they gathered all the pieces up; for, although the blessed God can give his people anything they want, they must never waste any of it.

Why could Jesus do this wonderful thing?

Because he had the power of God, and had only to speak the word, and food enough to feed the multitude was directly made.

What keeps our bodies alive?

Eating and drinking.

How do our souls become alive?

By believing on Jesus.

When a soul has been made alive by believing on Jesus, how must that soul be kept alive?

It must be nourished by prayer and the word of God.

Are the souls of all people dead who do not believe in Jesus?

Yes.

To what place will dead souls go?

To hell.

What should this history teach us?

To be more anxious to have food for our souls than food for our bodies.

What does Jesus say about this?

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all things needful shall be added unto you:” Matt. vi. 38.

What did the patient Job say?

That he esteemed the words of God more than his necessary food. Job xxiii. 12.

What were the five loaves made of?
Barley.

Do we like barley bread?

No; we call it sour and bad, and wish for
fine flour for our bread.

Children, when you eat your bread, thank God
for it, and ask him to bless it; and remember
that the blessed Jesus, God's dear Son, when he
lived upon the earth, had not bread so good as you
have to eat.

Look at the multitude on the hill side,
Can that great company all be supplied?
Faint with their journey, and far from their home—
Where's the provision that all may have some?

Thousands of men are gathering there!
Thousands of women and children there are!
Tender compassion has pitied their need,
Jesus is able and willing to feed.

Five barley loaves and fishes so small!
How can that nourishment satisfy all?
Jesus has blessed and broken the bread
And the great multitude all have been fed.

Let all the fragments be carefully sought,
Treasure the lessons your Saviour has taught,
Hide in your bosom, and take them away;
You shall have nourishment every day.

*Twenty-third Lesson.***JESUS WALKS ON THE SEA.****MATTHEW XIV.; MARK VI.; JOHN VI.**

AFTER the people had seen the miracle of feeding the multitude, they thought that Jesus must be the great and long expected deliverer ; and they wished to take him by force, and make him their king ; but when he saw this, he left them, and went alone unto a mountain to pray.

Where had he sent his disciples ?

He had made them get into a ship to go to the other side of the lake, whilst he stayed behind to send the multitudes away.

Did Jesus forget his disciples whilst he was praying on the mountain ?

No ; he kept his eye on them, and saw the ship tossing about in the midst of the sea, for the wind was contrary, and they could not get on because of the great wind that blew.

How did Jesus help them ?

In the midst of the night he went to them walking on the sea.

How did they feel when they saw him :

They were frightened, and they cried out for fear, for they thought they had seen a spirit.

How did he comfort them and quiet their fear?
He immediately began to talk to them, and said, "Be of good cheer; it is I, be not afraid."

What did Peter ask Jesus to let him do?

To bid him come to him on the water.

Did Jesus let him do so?

Yes.

When Peter got on the water, could he walk like Jesus?

He walked a little way to go to his master; but when he looked on the rough sea, he was frightened and began to sink, and he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Did Jesus save him?

The kind Jesus stretched forth his hand directly and caught him.

What did he say to Peter?

Oh! thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Did they both get into the ship?

Yes; and directly Jesus was in it, the wind left off blowing, and the ship reached the place to which it was going.

Were the disciples surprised when they saw that Jesus could stop the boisterous wind from blowing?

Yes; and they worshipped him, saying, "Of a truth thou art the Son of God."

If Peter had kept his eye on Jesus, instead of looking at the tossing water, could he have walked upon it?

If he had kept his eye on Jesus, he would not have sunk into the water.

If we are in trouble, to whom must we look for help?

We must look to God.

And will he help those who cry to him?

Yes; he will help all who ask him to do so for Jesus' sake, as surely as Jesus put forth his hand and helped Peter when he was sinking in the sea.

Need we be frightened if we are in trouble and do not know how to help ourselves?

No one need be afraid who looks to the great God for help; but directly we look to any one else, and trust only in them, we are like Peter when he looked on the tossing water, and we have much to fear.

What should this lesson teach us?

To go to God directly we are in trouble, for he knows everything, and never suffers those who love him to want anything that he sees it needful they should have.

Loud blew the wind that stormy night,
The roaring waves ran high;
The rowers rowed with all their might,
But land could not espy.

JESUS WALKS ON THE SEA.

For night came down upon the earth,
And darkness on the deep,
And vainly strove the little ship
Its onward course to keep.

What form of light is gliding by
Upon the surging tide ?
"It is a ghost !" the seamen cry ;
Their hearts within them died.

Fear not, ye faithless mariners,
It is your living Lord,
He walketh on the water flood,
His succour to afford.

Receive him to your tossing ship,
Receive him to your heart,
And make him there a welcome guest,
And let him not depart.

For he can rule the raging sea,
And bring the tempest low,
And guide you to the happy land
Where you would wish to go.

M.

PART FOURTH.

THE LAST YEAR OF THE LIFE OF JESUS.

Twenty-fourth Lesson.

THE DISCIPLES ACKNOWLEDGE CHRIST TO BE THE SON OF GOD.

MATTHEW XVI.; MARK VIII.; LUKE IX.

As Jesus had now entered the last year that he was to live upon the earth, it was needful to prepare his disciples for things that were about to happen ; so he took them to a part of the country where they might be alone with him ; and one day, when they were walking together, he asked them to tell him who the people thought he was. Now I wish you to tell me what answer they gave him ?

They said, " Some say that thou art John the Baptist, but some say thou art Elias, and others say, that one of the old prophets is risen from the dead."

Did Jesus ask them who they thought he was ?
Yes.

What was their reply ?

Simon Peter directly answered for them all, and said, " Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Was this a good answer of Peter's?

Yes, and Jesus told him that he was blessed, and, that he had learned this thing from God, and not from man.

When Jesus saw that his disciples knew that he was the Son of God, did he let them go and tell the people?

No ; he charged them to tell it to no man.

Why was this ?

Because the right time was not yet come.

Did the disciples hope Jesus would make himself a king ?

Yes.

Were they wrong to expect this ?

They were wrong to expect it at this time.

Why ?

Because at this time Jesus came on purpose to suffer and die for our sins. The next time he comes, he will come like a king to judge and reign over his people.

Did Jesus tell them that he was now come to suffer and die ?

Yes ; from this time he began to tell them about it, and prepare them for it.

Repeat what he said must come to pass.

He said that he must go up to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes ; that they would

refuse to hear him, and that he should be killed ; but that after three days he should rise again from the dead.

How did the disciples feel when they heard these terrible things that their beloved Master would have to suffer ?

Peter was much offended, and took him by the hand, and told him to have pity on himself, and then it should not be so.

Was Jesus pleased that Peter wished him to spare himself ?

No ; this saying of Peter displeased the blessed Jesus more than anything his disciples ever did or said.

Why did this displease him so much ?

Because he saw that the devil had artfully got into Peter, and was trying, through him, to make him give up the great work he came into the world on purpose to do.

How did he reply ?

Exactly the same as he had done to the devil himself, when he had tempted him in the wilderness, and he said to Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan, thou art an offence to me ; for thou carest not for the things that be of God, but the things that be of man.

This conduct of Peter showed his love ; but it

also showed that his own heart was very fond of this world, and that he was still ignorant of what his Master was come for ; and it was this that displeased Jesus, and made him turn to the other disciples to see if they were of the same mind, and told them that if any man wished to be his disciple and come after him, he must be willing to deny himself, and take up his cross every day that he lived.

Was it a good thing for the disciples to know the worst that would happen ?

Yes ; if it had not been good for them, Christ would not have told it to them ; and it gave them an opportunity of turning back, if they found they had not courage to follow Jesus in his suffering.

Repeat Christ's words.

" If any man will come after me, let him deny himself daily, and follow me ; for whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

" For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul."

Did Jesus speak these words only to teach his disciples ?

No ; he spoke them for all the world.

What may we learn from them?

1st. That if we wish to be made like Christ, we must expect to suffer in many things like him.

2nd. If we deny Christ in this world, to save our lives, we shall lose the life of our souls in the world to come.

3rd. If any one is willing to lose his life for Christ's sake, his soul will be quite safe in the world to come.

4th. That a man will make a bad bargain, if, by denying Christ, he should gain the whole world, but lose his own soul.

After Jesus had told his disciples these hard and sorrowful things, did he tell them anything joyful?

Yes; he told them of the time when he should come in the glory of his Father, and all the holy angels.

Did he say what he should come for?

Yes; he said at that time he should reward every man according to his works.

Will it be a joyful day when Christ comes again?

It will be a glorious, joyful day to all those who love him, and have confessed him before men; but it will be an unhappy, woful day to

those who have been ashamed of him ; for his own lips have declared that he will be ashamed of them, when he shall come in his glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

"To take up the cross seems a difficult thing,
Will you tell me the meaning, I pray ?
The Testament mentions it many a time,
I should like to know which is the way."

"My dear little child, I will try to explain
The words that so puzzle your mind ;
For Jesus has said, if you take up the cross,
Contentment and peace you will find.

"Two spirits are seeking your heart to obtain,
And contending whose child you shall be ;
The sweet voice of Jesus says, ' Give me thy heart ;'
And the devil says, ' Do follow me.'

"And 'tis easier far with the last to comply,
Because you may have your own way ;
You may grumble and fret, you may quarrel and lie,
Or neglect all your duty for play.

"To take up the cross is to leave wicked ways,
And to walk in the ways of the Lord ;
To be patient and humble, contented and kind
In your home, at your school, or abroad.

"And to say unto Jesus, ' I give thee my heart,
And I pray thee to keep it from sin.
And that kind little voice, may it never depart,
But daily instruct me within.'

"The angels of God in their happy abode
Will smile on your ways with delight,
They know that the humble and teachable heart
Will find the cross easy and light."

M.

Twenty-fifth Lesson.

THE TRANSFIGURATION.

MATTHEW XVII.; MARK IX.; LUKE IX.

ABOUT a week after Jesus had told his disciples of the things that both they and he must suffer on the earth, he went with Peter, and James, and John into a high mountain to pray, and whilst he was there, they saw the glorious sight which we call the transfiguration.

Tell me the meaning of that word.

It means to change the appearance of a thing.

Was the appearance of Jesus altered at this time?

Yes; as he was praying, his face was altered, and, instead of looking like that of a common man, it did shine like the sun, and his clothes became shining, exceeding white as snow.

Was there any one with him besides Peter, and James, and John?

Yes; Moses, the great lawgiver of Israel, and Elijah, the chief of the prophets, came down from heaven to talk with Jesus.

What did they talk about?

They talked about the painful death he would soon die at Jerusalem.

Why did they choose this subject to talk upon?

Because that is the thing which fills heaven with wonder, and one day it will fill all the world with praise.

Did the three disciples hear all they talked about?

Not all, for they were heavy with sleep.

Were they pleased when they awoke, and saw their beloved master shining in all the glory of God?

Yes; and it made Peter so happy, that he wished to stay in the mountain, and not go down again.

Why did Peter wish to stay in the mountain?

Because he hoped, if they stayed there, they might be saved the trials that Jesus had told them of.

What did he ask Jesus to let them do?

To make three tents; one for him, one for Moses, and one for Elias.

Did Jesus give him any answer?

No; for while he was speaking a bright cloud overshadowed them, and they heard God's voice speaking to them out of the cloud.

What did the voice say ?

“ This is my beloved Son, hear him.”

Had they heard the voice of God before ?

Yes, at the time Jesus was baptised.

How did these wonderful sights and sounds make the disciples feel ?

When they saw the bright cloud coming round them, it filled them with fear ; and when they heard the voice of God, they were so frightened, that they fell down on their faces, and did not speak one word, till Jesus came and gave them courage.

What did he do to them ?

He touched them with his life-giving hand, and said, “ Arise, be not afraid.”

Did they look up when he told them ?

Yes ; and they found Jesus there alone, for the voice had passed away, and Moses and Elias were gone back to heaven again.

Will it be a happy time when Jesus comes again in his glory ?

All who love him will be happy, for they will never be parted from him any more ; but they will be like him, and see him as he is, and everlasting joy will be upon their heads.

I read of the raiment as pure as light,

More glistening fair than the driven snow ;

I think of the day without a night,

And the River of Life in its crystal flow.

I think of that river so full and free,
And the beautiful trees on either side ;
Where the righteous stand in the light of God
Without transgression or sin to hide.

I think of the city all paved with gold,
Where saints redeemed in its glory dwell ;
And see with rejoicing their friends of old,
Without a trouble or fear to tell.

For sickness has fled from that holy place,
And sorrowful tears are wiped away !
They stand in the light of their Saviour's face,
And know 'tis the light of eternal day.

Oh ! may I but come to that joyful land,
When life and its troublesome toil is o'er,
My voice shall sing with the happy band,
And celebrate praise for evermore.

M.

Twenty-sixth Lesson.

CHRIST BLESSES LITTLE CHILDREN.

MATTHEW XVIII. XIX. ; MARK IX. X. ; LUKE XVIII.

ALTHOUGH Jesus so often told his disciples that he was come to suffer and die, they did not seem as if they could believe it ; but they still kept hoping that he would soon make himself a king.

What did they do one day, soon after they had seen him in his glorious dress, shining like the sun ?

They disputed among themselves who should be greatest in Christ's kingdom.

100

100



CHRIST BLESSING LITTLE CHILDREN.

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1

Did Jesus know what they disputed about?

Yes ; and when they reached Capernaum, he asked them what they had talked about by the way.

Did they answer his question ?

No ; they did not speak one word.

Why did they keep silent ?

Because they felt ashamed that Jesus should know that they were wishing to get great things for themselves.

Was this a thing to be ashamed of ?

Yes.

Why ?

Because all who take Jesus for their Lord and Master, should wish to become meek and lowly, like him, instead of wishing to be great and rich.

Did Jesus teach them better ?

Yes ; he sat down, and called them all together, and then he told them that, if any one of them wished to be the first, that one should be least of all, and servant of all ; and then he took a little child, and set it in the midst of them.

Was that to teach them anything ?

Yes ; he told them that, except their minds were changed, and they became like little children, they could not enter the kingdom of heaven.

How can men and women become like little children?

They must pray to God to give them humble and teachable minds, and they must trust him just as little children trust their parents for all they need.

Was Jesus kind and loving to little children?

Yes; very kind and loving.

Should we try to be like Jesus in this?

Yes; and he promises to love all those who are kind to little children, for his name's sake.

And what does he say to those who are unkind to the little ones who believe on him?

That it would be better for them if a mill-stone were hanged about their necks, and that they were drowned in the depths of the sea.

Who are Christ's little ones?

Christ's little ones are all those people who, with loving hearts, strive to please him, and do his holy will.

Did the disciples like the Jewish mothers to bring their children to Jesus, that he might lay his hands on them and pray for them.

No; they thought it very troublesome of them to do so, and would have sent them away.

Was Jesus displeased with the mothers for it?

No; he said, "Suffer the little children to

come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And then he took them up in his arms and blessed them.

Are all babies when they are born Christ's little ones?

Yes, they are all his ; he bought them with his precious blood, and they are safe in his fold.

Can parents bring their children to Jesus to bless them, now that he is gone back to heaven?

Yes ; they can kneel down, and beg him to be their good Shepherd, and never let them wander from his fold.

Is that what parents do when they bring their children to be baptised?

That is what all those parents do who love God and fear the devil, and who wish their children to be truly good and happy.

Are children in danger from the devil?

Yes ; he is the enemy of every little child directly it is born, and delights to make it wander from the fold of Christ.

How can these little ones be kept safe from this strong enemy?

They must take Jesus for their Friend.

And if they do this, will they be safe?

Oh, yes ; because their Friend is stronger than their enemy, and he is as willing to keep

them safe and good as the devil is to tempt them into danger and wickedness.

How does he keep them safe?

He has given them a great many directions in the New Testament how to avoid evil and do good ; and the Holy Spirit will speak in their hearts, and say to them, " Do this," or " Do not that."

Is Christ far off?

No ; he is close by every child who wishes to be good, and he is always ready to teach them and make them happy.

What should a child do who has been naughty?

Go and tell Jesus of it, and pray to be forgiven ; and then try to be good directly.

Will this please Jesus?

Yes.

Are those children who take Jesus for their Friend different to other children?

Yes ; Jesus gives them new hearts, and they are born again.

Is it a happy thing for children when their parents and teachers love the Lord ?

Yes ; because then they are taught that it is a pleasant thing to serve the Lord ; and whether they eat or drink, or work or play, they love to do it.

Does Jesus like to see children play ?

He likes to see them happy in their play,
and kind to one another.

What do those poor children love who have
wandered from the fold of Christ, and who have
no one to teach them the way back again ?

They love all the idle plays and wicked
ways that please the devil.

Can such poor children ever get back again to
Christ's fold ?

Oh, yes ; directly they hate their bad ways
and cry to Jesus, he will take them in again,
and wash away their sins in his own blood.

“ I wish that I had seen the Lord,
And heard the words he had to say,
I would have heeded every word,
And not have turned my heart away.

“ I should have liked to feel his hand,
So gently laid upon my head ;
I would have tried to be so good,
And minded every word he said.

“ I often think, that if I knew
What things would please him, I would try ;
But, now he's gone so far away,
I cannot hear him from the sky.”

“ My little child, whene'er you read
What Jesus said, and bid us do,
Think always that you hear him speak,
And that he speaks those words for you.

“He loves to see a little child
Contending with its stubborn will,
And striving to be meek and mild ;
And, though in heaven, will bless it still.”
M.

Twenty-seventh Lesson.

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS.

JOHN XI.

WHEN Jesus was in Judea he often went to the little town of Bethany, to visit a happy family that lived there. Tell me how many persons there were in this family, and what were their names.

There were two sisters, whose names were Martha and Mary ; and they had one brother, whose name was Lazarus.

What made them a happy family ?
Jesus loved them, and they loved Jesus.

Were they rich or poor ?
Most likely rich, because Bethany was called the town of Martha and her sister Mary.

How did these sisters show that they loved Jesus, and believed that he would help them ?

By sending to him when they were in great trouble and sorrow.

What was this great sorrow ?
Their brother Lazarus was sick, and they
: afraid he would die ?

What was the message they sent to Jesus?

It was this very short one : " Lord ! behold he whom thou lovest is sick."

Did Jesus go to Bethany directly he received it?

Not till the third day after, and then he said to his disciples, " Let us go into Judea."

Did the disciples like to go?

No.

Why not?

Because the last time Jesus had been at Jerusalem the Jews had taken up stones to stone him, and they were afraid he might again be in danger.

Did their fears stop Jesus?

No danger ever stopped Jesus from doing his work, and he told them that those men who worked by daylight never stumbled.

What did he mean by this?

He meant that people are safe when they are doing their duty, because the light of God's favour is shining upon them.

What was the work that Jesus had now to do?

Lazarus was dead, and he had to raise him from the dead, and give him back alive to his sisters.

Did Jesus tell them that Lazarus was dead?

No ; he called death sleep, and said that he was going to Bethany to awake him.

Did the disciples understand that Jesus called death sleep?

No; they thought that Lazarus was really sleeping, and said, "If he sleep, he will do well."

Did this thought make them glad?

Yes; because they thought there was no need for their Master to go into danger.

What did Jesus say when he saw they did not understand him?

He said plainly, "Lazarus is dead."

Why did not Jesus heal Lazarus by a word, without going to Bethany, as he had done the centurion's servant?

Because he was now going to let the people see him work a greater miracle than any he had done before.

Why was it a greater miracle to raise Lazarus from the dead than it was to bring to life the son of the widow of Nain?

Because the body of Lazarus had lain in the grave four days.

When Jesus reached Bethany he found the sorrowing sisters with many friends around them, who had come from Jerusalem to comfort them; but directly they heard Jesus was come, Martha went out to meet him.

Tell me what she said.

"Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."

What answer did Jesus give her?

He said, "Thy brother shall rise again."

What did Martha think he meant by this?

She only thought that he would raise her brother up again at the last day.

Did he mean more?

He meant that he would make him alive again at this time.

What did Martha say when Jesus told her that the souls of those people should never die who believed in him?

She said, "Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, who should come into the world."

When Martha had heard these comforting words from the lips of Jesus, she went to her sister Mary, who sat still in the house, and whispered to her "that the master was come, and called for her;" and directly Mary heard this she went to Jesus, and fell down weeping at his feet, and said, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and her friends weeping with her, what did he do?

He groaned in spirit and was troubled, and

asked them to show him the place where they had laid him, and as they went to see it, "Jesus wept."

What did the Jews say when they saw Jesus weep?

"Behold how he loved him."

Did Jesus take any notice of this?

No ; his heart was so full of grief, that he went on to the grave.

What kind of grave was it?

It was a cave with a stone laid over it, and Jesus told them to take away the stone.

Why did he do this?

That the people might see the dead body in the grave, and to make a way for it to come out.

Did Martha like the stone to be taken away?

No ; for she thought the body was already decayed, and would be too bad to look at.

Did this show that Martha's faith was weak, and that she had forgotten that Jesus had told her, "if she believed, she should see the glory of God?"

Yes ; and he reproved her for it.

When the stone was taken away, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and thanked God that he had heard his prayer, and said that he hoped the

people who stood by would now believe that he had sent him; and when he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

Did Lazarus obey the call?

Yes; his spirit heard the voice of Jesus, and came back into his body, and took it up, and he came out of the grave bound hand and foot.

What had he on?

He was dressed in his grave clothes, and had a napkin round his face.

Was his body made well again?

Yes; and Jesus told the people to loose him and let him go.

What will happen at the last day?

Jesus will come again with all the holy angels, and then all that are in the grave will hear his voice.

Will they come out of their graves?

Yes.

What will Christ do with them?

He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.

Where will he place them?

He will set those who love him on his right

hand, and those who do not love him he will place on his left.

What will he say to those on his right hand?

“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world :” Matt. xxv.

What will he say to those on his left hand?

“Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Sisters, cease weeping,
Your brother is sleeping,
But Jesus is keeping
His eye on the grave.

Do not deplore him,
One stands before him,
Who can restore him
Back from the grave.

Hark ! what does Jesus say ?
“Take the great stone away,
Death shall give up his prey
Out of the grave.”

So when Christ comes again,
Ev’ry bar will be vain,
He will break every chain
That binds the grave.

Twenty-eighth Lesson.

JESUS SETS HIS FACE TO GO TO JERUSALEM, AND MARY ANOINTS HIS HEAD WITH PRECIOUS OINTMENT.

JOHN XII.; MARK XIV.

I DARE say, children, you think that all the people who saw Lazarus come out of the grave, now believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and fell down and worshipped him ; but it was not so, for, although some of them did this, others hated him yet more, and went directly and told the Pharisees all about the miracle.

What did the Pharisees do when they heard of it ?

They all met together with the chief priests to consult what was to be done ; and from that time they determined to kill Jesus as soon as they could.

When Jesus knew this, did he stay in Bethany ?

No ; he went out of their way to the city of Ephraim, and there he stayed with his disciples.

How long did he remain there ?

Until six days before the feast of the Pass-over.

Why did he stay there until that time ?

Because, as the Jews were seeking to kill

him, it was best to keep out of their way until the time for his crucifixion drew near.

When that time was near at hand, did he go straight to Jerusalem?

He then set his face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem, and neither turned to the right hand nor to the left.

Did he go directly into the city?

No; he stayed at Bethany, where Lazarus was, with his sisters Martha and Mary.

To whose house did Jesus go at Bethany?

To the house of Simon the leper, who made him a supper.

Were there many people at Bethany at this time?

Yes, a great many Jews.

Did they come on purpose to see Jesus?

No; they went that they might see Lazarus also, who had been raised from the dead.

When the chief priests saw that many believed on Jesus, because he had raised Lazarus, what did they do?

They planned to kill Lazarus as well as Jesus.

Was there any one at the supper besides Jesus and his disciples?

Yes; Lazarus was one who sat at the table with him, and Martha served.

What did the loving Mary do ?

She brought an alabaster box full of very costly ointment, worth 10/.

What did she do with it ?

She broke the beautiful box, and poured out the ointment on the head of Jesus.

Did she do anything else ?

She put some of the ointment on his feet, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

Were the disciples pleased with Mary when they smelt the sweet smell of the ointment, and saw how much she loved their Lord and Master ?

No ; they were angry with her, and said it was wasteful, and Judas Iscariot asked why the ointment had not been sold and given to the poor.

Did Judas care about the poor ?

No ; Judas was a thief, and he thought, if the ointment had been sold, he should have got the money.

Did Jesus think it was a good work Mary had done ?

Yes ; and he reproved his disciples, and told them they had the poor always with them, and that at any time they could do them good, but they would not always have him with them.

Do you think Mary was glad when she saw her Lord was pleased with what she had done?

No doubt she was delighted when she heard from his own lips that wherever the good news of the Saviour of sinners should be preached, this thing that she had done should be told for a memorial of her.

You and I cannot anoint the head and feet of Jesus now he is gone back to heaven, but is there not something we can do to please him?

He has been kind enough to tell us that, if we do anything to comfort and help those who love him, he will take it as if we had done it to himself.

Ere little children nestle
Within their beds at night,
And close their heavy eyelids,
To sleep till morning light,—

Just let them ask these questions
Of that small voice within,
“What actions have I done to-day
That Jesus reckons sin?

“Have I been kind and gentle,
And neither cross nor rude?
Have I obeyed my parents,
And striven to be good?

“And have I spoken truly,
Without deceit or art?
And done my little duties
With glad and patient heart?”

Then listen to the answer
That little voice will give ;
And if it says, " You disobeyed,"
Or, " Did not fully strive,"—

Confess it to the Saviour,
Who stands beside your bed ;
And beg him, then, to pardon you,
And bless your little head ;

And help you on the morrow
To try more earnestly
To be as good and happy
As he would have you be.

M.

Twenty-ninth Lesson.

THE HOSANNA.

MATTHEW XXI. ; MARK XI. ; LUKE XIX. ; JOHN XII.

ON the next day after that on which Jesus had supped at the house of Simon the leper, he prepared to go to Jerusalem ; and when the people heard he was coming, some of them went out with palm branches to meet him.

Did Jesus walk from Bethany to Jerusalem ?
He walked as far as Bethphage, and then he sent two of his disciples into a town hard by, to get him something to ride upon.

What did they find for him ?

A colt which had never been used by any man before.

Did he tell them where they would find it ?

Yes ; he said, as soon as they got into the town, they would find an ass tied, and a colt, the foal of an ass.

Why did Jesus send for such a poor animal to ride upon ?

Because 500 years before this time the prophet Zechariah had said, " Rejoice greatly, oh daughter of Jerusalem, behold thy king cometh unto thee ; he is just, and, having salvation, lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass : " Zech. ix. 9.

Did the disciples find the colt as Jesus had told them ?

Yes ; and when they began to loose it, the owner came to them, and asked why they were loosing the colt ; but when they told him the Lord had need of it, he let them take it.

Did they put anything on the colt before Jesus sat upon it ?

They took off their clothes and put them on it.

When they drew nigh to Jerusalem, did many people come out to meet Jesus ?

Yes ; crowds of people.

How did they receive him ?

Like a king ; and they spread their garments in the way to make a carpet for him to ride upon, and they cut down branches of trees, and strewed them in the way.

Did they do anything else ?

Yes ; they waved the palm branches in the air, and shouted for joy, and cried aloud, " Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord ! Hosanna in the highest ! "

Why did the people do this ?

Because they were filled with joy at the thought that Jesus was now come to be their king, and therefore they treated him like a mighty conqueror.

Were the Pharisees pleased ?

No, they were angry, and told Jesus to rebuke his disciples.

Did Jesus rebuke them ?

No ; he said, " I tell you, if these were to hold their peace, the very stones would cry out. "

Now, dear children, think a little more of this blessed lowly Jesus, who, instead of coming with thousands of chariots, and ten thousands of angels, chose one of the poorest of animals to ride upon ; and although by one word he could have paved

his path with gold, he only had the homely garments of his followers to ride upon, and then tell me why he did in this manner?

He did it that the words of the Old Testament might be so clearly fulfilled that all who read about him might believe that he was the Son of God.

When Jesus got to Jerusalem, where did he go?

To the Temple; and there he found the people buying and selling, as he had done once before.

Did he turn them out?

Yes; and said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves."

What did Jesus do next?

He healed some lame and blind people who came to him.

How did the chief priests feel when they saw all these things, and heard the children cry, Hosanna?

They were sore displeased, and said to him, "Hearest thou what these say?"

Did Jesus reply to this?

He asked them if they had never heard these words: "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise."

Which would you like best to have been, the Pharisees who could not bear to hear Jesus praised, or like the dear little children who cried Hosanna ?

Like the little children who cried " Hosanna to the Son of David."

Is Jesus as pleased with those children who love him now, as he was with the children of Jerusalem who cried Hosanna ?

Yes; he is just as pleased, and he says the angels do always behold the face of his Father who is in heaven.

Lord of mercy and of might,
Of mankind the life and light,
Maker, Teacher, Infinite
Jesus, hear and save !

Strong Creator, Saviour mild,
Humbled to a little child,
Captive, beaten, bound, reviled,
Jesus, hear and save !

Throned above celestial things,
Borne aloft on angels' wings,
Lord of Lords, and King of Kings,
Jesus, hear and save !

Soon to come to earth again,
Judge of angels and of men,
Hear us now, and hear us then ;
Jesus, hear and save !
HEBER.

Thirtieth Lesson.

THE PROPHECY OF THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND OF CHRIST'S COMING AGAIN.

MATTHEW XXIV.; MARK XIII.; LUKE XXI.

JESUS passed the last few days of his life in teaching the people and preparing his disciples for that time when they would be left without him. His nights were spent either at Bethany or on the Mount of Olives; and when he was leaving the Temple, never more to go into it, he told the Jews some of the judgments that their wickedness would bring upon their city.

Did he say anything to show them that it would be all their own fault?

Yes; he told them that he often would have gathered them together, to take care of them, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and they would not.

As Jesus left the Temple did his disciples say anything to him?

Yes; one of them begged him to look at the building, and see what stones it was built of, and some of them talked about its beauty and the costly gifts that were in it.

Did Jesus make them any reply ?

He said, the whole place should be entirely destroyed, that there should not be left one stone upon another that should not be thrown down.

Had any of the old prophets spoken of this time ?

Yes ; the prophet Micah had said, " That for their sakes Zion should be ploughed like a field, and Jerusalem become heaps : " Micah iii. 12.

Why did Jesus say this would be done ?

Because of the great wickedness of the Jews.

In what way had the Jews shown their wickedness ?

They had persecuted and killed many of the prophets and wise men who had been sent to teach them, and now they were about to crucify their Lord and Saviour, and ill-treat his disciples.

Did the disciples make any further inquiry ?

Peter and James and John secretly asked him to tell them three things.

What were these three things ?

1st. When these things that he had spoken of should be.

THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM,

And what should be the sign of his coming
again?

When the end of the world would be.
Did he answer them?

Yes.

Was Jerusalem destroyed, as Jesus had said it
would be?

Yes: the Roman Emperor Titus destroyed
the city, and the beautiful Temple was burned
with fire.

Was the ground ploughed like a field, as the
prophet Micah had said?

Yes: a man named Tereus Rurius ploughed
over the place where the proud city of Jeru-
salem stood.

Now tell me what he said about his own coming
again?

He said he would come quick, like light-
ning in the clouds of heaven.

What will he do then?

He will send his angels
of a trumpet, and gather
who love him from

Did he tell them

No; he
or the

be?

he da

denly upon us, just as the flood did in the
days of Noah, when all the people were
drowned except those who were in the ark.

Why did Jesus say we must keep on the watch?
Because he said, "Ye know not what hour
your Lord doth come."

Repeat Mark xiii. 34, 35.

There is a green hill far away
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell
What pains he had to bear ;
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good ;
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin ;
He could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.

For he, dearly has he loved,
We must love him, too ;
By his redeeming blood,
He has made us free to do.

C. F. H.

Thirty-first Lesson.

THE LAST SUPPER.

MATTHEW XXVI.; MARK XIV.; LUKE XXII.

WHEN Jesus had only two more days to live, he said plainly to his disciples, "You know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, at which time I shall be betrayed and crucified." And then he told them to go and prepare a room, that he might eat it with them.

What were the chief priests doing at this time?

They were gathered together at the house of Caiaphas, the high priest, to consult how they could take Jesus by craft, and put him to death.

Did they find it easy to make a plan to do this?

No.

Why?

Because there were so many people came up to Jerusalem to the Passover feast, that they were afraid if they took Jesus, there would be an uproar amongst them.

Who helped them to do what their wicked hearts wished?

The devil put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot to do so.



THE LAST SUPPER.

How did he do it?

Just at the time they were trying to lay their plan, he went to them, and asked them what they would give him to help them.

Were they glad of his help?

Yes; and they promised to give him money if he would do so.

Was that what Judas wished for?

Yes; he was the devil's servant, and he had filled his heart with the love of money.

How much did they promise to give him?

Thirty pieces of silver; the price of a common slave.

Did this fulfil any prophecy?

Yes; it fulfilled one which the prophet Zechariah had spoken five hundred years before. Zech. xi. 12, 13.

Where did Judas go after he had done this?

He joined the other disciples and Jesus in the room where they were going to eat the Passover.

Whilst they were eating it, what did Jesus say to them?

"Verily, I say unto you, one of you that eateth with me shall betray me."

Did the disciples feel grieved when they heard him say this?

Yes; and they looked one on another, and

began to inquire among themselves, which of them it could be who would do this dreadful thing. And every one of them said, "Lord, is it I?"

Did Jesus know who was going to betray him?
Yes.

Did Jesus tell them who it was?

When John asked who it was, he told him, it was that disciple to whom he should give a sop when he had dipped it; and then he dipped the sop, and gave it to Judas Iscariot.

Did Judas say, "Lord, is it I?"

Yes; and when Jesus said it was, he told him to go and do quickly what he had planned; and Judas went out immediately, and it was night.

When he was gone, did Jesus say anything to his disciples?

Yes; many things.

Tell me one.

He said he would give them a new commandment.

What was it?

That they should love one another as he had loved them.

What did Peter say?

Lord, I am ready to follow thee both to prison and to death.

Did Jesus think Peter would be so ready to lay down his life for his sake?

No; and he said to him, "I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow before thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me."

Did Jesus give his disciples any other particular commandment at this time?

Yes; just at the end of the supper he took a piece of the bread, and gave thanks to God, and brake it, and gave it to his disciples to eat; and then he told them, as often as they did this, they were to remember his dying love.

What did he tell them they were to think upon when they looked at the broken bread?

How his body was bruised and his flesh torn when he was nailed upon the cross.

What more did Jesus do?

He took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks to God, he said, "Drink ye all of it."

When they had drunk the wine, did he tell them what this meant?

Yes; he said it meant his blood, which was shed for the putting away the sins of the world.

Did Jesus give this commandment for any one besides the disciples who were with him?

Yes; he gave it for all those people who love him and believe their sins are forgiven them for his name's sake.

Do those people who love the Lord now, keep his death in mind by eating bread and wine?

Yes.

When they do it, what is it called?

Sometimes it is called eating the Lord's Supper, sometimes it is called taking the Sacrament, and sometimes the Communion.

What sort of people may take the Lord's Supper?

All those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the Saviour of the world, and desire to love him with all their hearts.

How long did Jesus say his people are to keep him in mind by eating the bread and drinking the wine?

Until he comes again.

When the supper was finished, where did they go?

After they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Within the High Priest's palace
The Jewish rulers wait
The coming of the traitor,
To satisfy their hate.

That traitor, led by Satan,
And covetous of gold,
And greater worldly honour,
His blessed Master sold.

Better had he been lying
Deep in the silent grave,
Than have betrayed that Master
Who came the lost to save.

The deed was done in darkness,
But with the rising sun
The dwellers in Jerusalem
Will know what he has done.

And some will hear it weeping
Upon that coming morn ;
But others with rejoicing
And cruel bitter scorn.

But nothing stopped the Saviour ;
He called no angel band
To execute his vengeance
Upon a guilty land.

But bowed his head to suffer,
Alone ! without a friend ;
And saw through all the sorrow
The glory of the end.

Thirty-second Lesson.

JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE.

MATTHEW XXVI. ; MARK XIV. ; LUKE XXII. ; JOHN XVIII.

As Jesus walked with his disciples to the Mount of Olives, he spoke to them of the time when he should be taken from them ; and he said that they would be scattered abroad like sheep having no

shepherd ; and he also told them, that on that very night they would all forsake him, and leave him alone.

How did they feel when they heard him say this ?

Peter was so grieved, that he declared again that his love was so strong, that if every one forsook him, yet he would not.

Did Jesus know Peter's heart better than Peter knew it himself ?

Yes ; and he told him the same thing that he had done once before, that on that very night, before the cock should crow twice, he would three times deny that he knew him.

When they reached the foot of the Mount of Olives, where did they go ?

Into the garden of Gethsemane.

Had Jesus often been there before ?

Yes ; this garden belonged to one of his friends ; it was a quiet place, and he often went there to pray.

Did he take all the disciples with him ?

He took Peter, and James, and John into the garden with him, and told the other eight to sit down and wait.

When Jesus was alone with these three disciples, did he say anything to them ?

He said, " My soul is exceeding sorrowful,

even unto death;" and he told them to stay and watch with him while he went away.

How far did he go?

Only a little way; about as far as a man can throw a stone.

Why did Jesus leave them?

He went to be alone with God.

When he was alone with his Father, he fell down on his face and prayed that, if it were possible, he would save him from this dreadful suffering; but that, if it were not right that he should be spared, he was willing and ready to bear it all.

Did Peter and James and John watch and pray with him?

No; they were very tired, and they fell asleep.

Did Jesus find them asleep?

Yes; three times.

What did Jesus say to them, when he found them sleeping?

He asked Peter if he could not watch with him one hour; and he told them all to watch and pray, lest they should fall into temptation.

Was Jesus very sorrowful when he prayed in the garden?

He was in such an agony of suffering, that

the blood pressed through the skin, and "he sweat great drops of blood."

Why was Jesus in this agony?

Because he was bearing the weight of the sins of the whole world.

When we are in sorrow and pain, do not our friends try to comfort us?

Yes; but when the blessed Jesus was sorrowful, his disciples fell asleep.

Did any one comfort him?

God sent an angel from heaven to strengthen him.

When Jesus found the disciples asleep the third time, what did he say to them?

He told them, if they liked, they might sleep now; that there was no further need to watch, for Judas was at hand, ready to betray him.

What more did he say?

"Rise, let us be going;" and directly he had said this, Judas came with a great many people, who were bearing lamps and torches, and swords and staves, to take him.

Had not the words been written clear,

And we the whole had read,

We ne'er could have believed it true

That the disciples fled;

Or that the chosen three laid down and slept,

When in Gethsemane the Saviour wept.

We must not have hard thoughts of them,
For they were faint and sad ;
Dark troubles now were brooding round,
With nought to make them glad :
A drowsy stupor had subdued their fear ;
They heard not e'en the soldiers drawing near.

But let us rather search ourselves
Than these disciples blame ;
And fear, had we been left to watch,
We might have done the same ;
And that, like them, confused with grief, we might
Have left our Lord, and fled in wild affright.

Thirty-third Lesson.

JUDAS BETRAYS CHRIST.

MATTHEW XXVI.; MARK XIV.; LUKE XXII.; JOHN XVIII.

How did Judas know that he should find Jesus
in the garden of Gethsemane ?

He thought he should find him there,
because he knew that Jesus often went into
that shady quiet garden to pray.

What time was it when they took Jesus ?

It was night, and they brought lanterns and
torches with them.

Who came with Judas ?

Some of the chief priests and captains of the
Temple, and some of the elders, as well as a
great multitude of people.

What sign did Judas give the soldiers by which they might know Jesus ?

He said, " Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he, hold him fast, and take him away."

And was Judas such a hypocrite as to betray his Master with a kiss ?

Yes ; he went up to him, as if he were filled with joy at seeing him, and said, " Hail, Master !" and kissed him.

What is the meaning of the word hail ?
It means, " Be well."

Did Jesus speak to Judas and the men who were with him ?

He said to Judas, " Betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss ?" and then he inquired whom they were looking for.

What answer did he give when they told him they were seeking Jesus of Nazareth ?

He said plainly, " I am he."

When he said this, did they take him directly ?
No ; they were so frightened that they fell to the ground.

What did he say to them when he saw that his words and look had struck them to the ground ?

He told them again that he was Jesus, and that they might take him ; but that they must let his disciples go away.

Did the disciples do anything to take care of Jesus?

Peter drew his sword, and cut off the ear of a servant of the High Priest.

Did Jesus think this was right of Peter?

No ; and he healed the servant, and told Peter to put up his sword, for, if he wished for help, he could ask his Father, who would presently send twelve legions of angels.

Why did not Jesus ask his Father for help?

Because he said, that the Scriptures must be fulfilled.

Did he speak to the chief priests and captains of the Temple, and the elders, before the soldiers took him?

He asked them why they had not taken him when he was daily preaching to them in the Temple, instead of now coming to him, as if he were a thief, with swords and staves.

Did the disciples go with Jesus?

No ; all their boasted courage was gone, and they all forsook him, and fled.

They came in the night with their lanterns and torches,
Their swords in their hands, and their weapons of war,

They came for the Holy One,
Came for the Lowly One,
Son of the Father, and bright morning star.

The soldiers retreated, ashamed of their mission,
The Prince of Peace stood in the midst of the crowd,
 He laid by his power
 In that solemn hour,
And like a meek lamb to the slaughter he bowed.
He suffered for us who so often forget him,
He suffered denial, desertion, and pain,
 He tasted life's misery,
 Drank of death's agony,
Then King over all he ascended to reign.

M.

Thirty-fourth Lesson.

CHRIST BEFORE CAIAPHAS.

JOHN XVIII.

WHEN the captains and officers had bound Jesus, where did they take him to?

First of all they took him to Annas, but he sent him away to Caiaphas, who was the High Priest.

Was there any one with Caiaphas when Jesus was brought before him?

Yes; although it was in the dead of the night, all the chief priests, and scribes and elders were met together at the High Priest's palace, waiting for Jesus to be brought before them.

When Jesus was led in, what did they do?

They put many questions to him, and brought false witnesses to speak lies about

him; and when they could not prove that he had done anything wrong, one of them was so angry, that he smote him with his hand.

What question did Caiaphas put to Jesus ?

He asked him to tell him whether he was the Christ, the Son of the blessed God.

Did Jesus answer this question ?

Yes ; he said that he was the Son of God, and, that one day they should see him sitting at God's right hand, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

What did Caiaphas do when he heard Jesus say this ?

He pretended to be full of grief, and rent his clothes, and said that Jesus was guilty of death, because he had said he was the Son of God.

Were the Jews pleased when they heard Caiaphas say this ?

Yes ; they were wicked enough to be glad, and some began to spit on him, and cover his face, and buffet him, and even the servants smote him with the palms of their hands.

Did the blessed Jesus bear all this patiently ?

“ He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth :” Isaiah liii. 7.

Peter denies Christ.

Were any of the disciples with Jesus when he went before Caiaphas?

Peter and John were there; for, although they ran away when he was taken in the garden, they came back again to see the end.

How were they able to get into the palace?

John was able to get in, because he knew the High Priest, and he asked the maid that kept the door to let Peter come in.

Did Peter keep close to Jesus?

No; he mixed with the servants, and as it was cold, he went to the fire to warm himself.

Do you remember anything Peter said at the Last Supper?

He had boasted of his bravery at that time, and had told Jesus, that if all men denied him, yet he would not, and that he was ready to go with him to prison and to death.

Now we shall see how very little Peter knew himself, for very soon after he had made this boast he ran away, when his Master was in danger; and now, although he came back again, he mixed himself with the servants, hoping by that means he should see all that passed and yet not be known to be one of the disciples.

Did this plan of Peter's answer?

No; the maid who had let him in, came

and asked him if he were not one of the disciples.

What did he reply to her ?

He pretended that he did not know what she was saying, and then went to the door, and whilst he was standing there, another maid came and said, "This fellow was also with Jesus."

What did Peter say to her ?

He denied with an oath, and said, "I do not know the man."

Did any one come to him the third time ?

Yes ; in about an hour another came, and said, he was sure Peter was one of the disciples, that he knew it by his speech.

What did Peter do now ?

He began to curse and to swear, and said again that he did not know Jesus ; and whilst he was doing this he heard the cock crow, and saw Jesus turn round, and look at him.

How did Peter feel when he saw Jesus look round ?

He remembered what he had told him, and was very sorrowful, and went out and wept bitterly.

Now, children, this is a very sad history about

Peter, and you very likely think you would not have done as he did ; but do not be too sure, for there are many people who talk very bravely, who run away when there is any danger ; and Peter, no doubt, felt afraid he might be killed with Jesus.

Let us learn this lesson from it, and never boast of ourselves, and let us remember that, after Jesus was crucified, Peter was very brave, and went about preaching to the people and telling them of Jesus, till at last he was hated as his Master had been before him, and made to die a very cruel death.

Ashamed of Jesus ! Can it be ?
A mortal man ashamed of thee !
Of thee, whom highest angels praise,
Whose glories shine through endless days.

Ashamed of Jesus ! of that Friend
On whom my hopes of heaven depend !
No ! when I blush, be this my shame,
That I no more revere his name.

Ashamed of Jesus ! Yes, I may,
When I've no sins to wash away,
No tears to wipe, no joys to crave,
And no immortal soul to save.

Till then—nor is my boasting vain—
Till then I'll boast a Saviour slain ;
And, oh ! may this my portion be,
That Saviour not ashamed of me !

GREGG.

Thirty-fifth Lesson.

CHRIST BEFORE PONTIUS PILATE AND HEROD.

MATTHEW XXVII.; MARK XV.; LUKE XXIII.; JOHN XVIII.

As soon as the morning was come, the chief priests, the scribes, and elders, with the whole council, met together; to consult how they should put Jesus to death; and after they had examined him again, they led him bound to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor.

Why did they do this?

Because they could not put Jesus to death unless the Roman governor would give them a warrant to do so.

Did Pontius Pilate like to give them this death-warrant?

No; and after he had questioned Jesus, he told the Jews, that, as he could find no fault in him, they might take him and judge him themselves.

Did this satisfy them?

Not at all, because, now that they had no king of their own, it was not lawful for them to put a man to death.

What did Pilate do when he found this did not please them?

He questioned Jesus again, but even this time he found no fault at all in him.

If Pilate thought Jesus was a good man, why did he not let him go?

Because he loved the praise of man more than serving God, and this made him wish to please the Jews rather than take care of Jesus.

When Pilate found the Jews were determined on killing Jesus, and that they only grew fiercer and more bloodthirsty when he told them he was innocent, he thought of another plan, and that was to send him to Herod, the governor of Galilee, to be judged.

Was this Herod the same man who had beheaded John the Baptist?

Yes; and he had long wished to see Jesus work a miracle, and to know whether he was John the Baptist risen from the dead.

Did Herod question Jesus?

He put many questions to him; but when he found he answered nothing, he and his men of war mocked him, and put on him a gorgeous robe, and led him back to Pontius Pilate.

And now what did Pilate do ?

He called the chief priests and rulers and the people together again, and told them that, as neither he nor Herod could find any fault in Jesus for which he ought to be put to death, he would chastise him and then set him free.

Did this satisfy the people ?

No ; they cried out all at once, "Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas."

Who was Barabbas ?

A robber and a murderer.

Did Pilate do as they requested ?

When he heard them crying with loud voices, "Let him be crucified ! he took water and washed his hands, and said, I am innocent of the blood of this just person ; and then he released Barabbas ; and when he had scourged Jesus, he gave him up to be crucified."

Repeat what St. John says Pilate did.

"Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him ; and the soldiers platted a crown of thorns and put it on his head ; and they put on him a purple robe, and said, Hail, King of the Jews ! and they smote him with their hands : " John xix. 1—3.

Why was Pilate so anxious that the guilt of putting Jesus to death should not rest upon him ?

Because, when he found no fault in him, he

felt afraid that Jesus might be the Son of God ; and as he knew that it was out of envy that the Jews wished to kill him, he thought it right that the guilt of doing so should rest upon them.

And were they willing to take this heavy burden on themselves ?

Yes ; and they cried out, " His blood be upon us, and upon our children."

Repeat what St. Matthew says happened after the unjust Pilate had scourged Jesus.

" Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.

" And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

" And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it on his head, and a reed in his right hand, and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews !

" And they spit upon him, and took the reed and smote him on the head.

" And after they had mocked him, they took the robe off him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him : " Matt. xxvii. 27—31.

Why did they put the crown of thorns on his head and the reed in his hand?

Because kings wear crowns of gold, and hold in their hands sceptres of gold, and so, to mock Jesus, they put the crown of thorns on his head and the reed in his hand.

Did Jesus bear all this patiently?

Yes; he gave his back to the smiters, and withheld not his face from shame and spitting. Isa. l. 6.

Should you think the crown of thorns hurt him?

Yes, it must have torn the tender flesh, and the blood must have poured out from the wounds.

Was he angry when they spat upon his face, and smote him on the head?

St. Peter says: "When he was reviled, he reviled not again:" 1 Pet. ii. 23. And the prophet Isaiah says: "He was led as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth:" Is. liii. 7.

Should you think Jesus was grieved, as he looked on the hard-hearted people around him, and heard their cruel mockings?

We think their wickedness grieved him more than his own sufferings.

And should you think it grieves Jesus, now he is in heaven, when he sees men do naughty things?

We think it must make him sorry.

Then what should we do?

Try to give up all bad ways, and never grieve the blessed Jesus any more.

Shall we be happy if we do this?

Yes ; it will make us happy now, and when we die, our happiness will have no end ; for then we shall always see God, and Jesus Christ our Lord.

When our hearts are bowed with woe,
When our bitter tears o'erflow,
When the hour of death is near,
Jesus, Son of David, hear !

Thou hast bowed the dying head,
Thou the blood of life hast shed,
Thou hast filled the mortal bier ;
Jesus, Son of David, hear !

When the heart is sad within,
With the thought of all its sin ;
When the spirit shrinks with fear,
Jesus, Son of David, hear !

Thou the shame, the grief hast known ;
Though the sins were not thine own,
Thou hast deigned their load to bear ;
Jesus, Son of David, hear !

MILMAN.

Thirty-sixth Lesson.

THE CRUCIFIXION.

MATTHEW XXVII.; MARK XV.; LUKE XXIII.; JOHN XIX.

OUR last chapter was a very sad one ; but this is still sadder : for now the devil and wicked men seemed to have got all they wished, and they led the sinless Jesus away to crucify him.

Do you not think he must have been very tired in body by this time ?

Yes ; very indeed, for he had endured that long agony in the garden of Gethsemane ; he had been before Caiaphas the whole night ; he had stood before the unjust Pontius Pilate ; he had been mocked by Herod and his men of war ; and he had been scourged, and mocked, and buffeted and spit upon ; and, above all this, he had suffered the bitter grief of being deserted by all his disciples, and of hearing Peter deny him with oaths and curses.

Did not all this suffering, so meekly borne, raise one pitying thought in the minds of his persecutors ?

Not one ; but all wearied as he was, they laid the cross upon his shoulders, and made him bear it.

Did Jesus carry the cross all the way to Calvary?

No; they took it from his shoulders, and laid it upon Simon the Cyrenean.

Why did they not make Jesus carry the cross all the way?

Perhaps it was because they saw he was nearly worn out by his suffering, and they were afraid that he might die before they had crucified him.

Did many people follow Jesus to Calvary?

There followed him a great company, and women who wailed and lamented him.

Did Jesus speak to them?

He turned round and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

How did they crucify Jesus?

They laid the cross on the ground and stretched him out upon it, and then nailed his hands and feet to the wood.

Did this hurt very much?

Yes; for the nails were driven through the tender part of the hands and feet.

How did they set the cross up?

They lifted it up, and then, with a sudden jerk, they forced it into the ground; and this must have torn the flesh dreadfully.

Where was this dreadful deed done ?
At a place called Golgotha, on Mount Calvary.

Did anything happen as he hung on the cross ?

Yes, many things.

Tell me some.

The passers by reviled him, and wagging their heads, told him to save himself if he were the Son of God ; and the chief priests and scribes and elders did the same, saying, in their mockery, " He saved others, himself he cannot save ;" and the soldiers, they also mocked him, and gave him vinegar mixed with bitter gall to drink ; and they sat down at the foot of the cross to divide his clothes amongst them, and cast lots upon his vesture.

Did he drink the vinegar and gall ?

No.

Did any one else bring him drink ?

Some women who loved him, brought him wine mixed with myrrh ; but neither did he drink that.

Why did he not take this from their loving hands ?

Because, if he had, it would have soothed the suffering.

Why did not Jesus wish to have the pain soothed?

Because he desired to drink the cup which his Father had given him.

Was any one crucified at the same time with Jesus?

Two thieves.

Did they say anything as they hung on the cross?

One of them reviled Jesus, but the other believed on him, and begged him to remember him when he should come into his kingdom.

Did Jesus answer this prayer?

He told him that on that very night he should be with him in Paradise.

Did Jesus show any anger to the people who stood round about mocking him?

No; he pitied them, and prayed for them, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

What o'clock was it when Jesus was crucified?

Three o'clock.

When he had hung on the cross three hours, what took place?

The sun hid his light, and there was darkness over the whole land till the ninth hour.

When the ninth hour was come, what did Jesus say?

His suffering for the sins of others was now at the highest, and he said, "My God! my God! why hast thou forsaken me?" But a little while after this he bowed his head, saying, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit;" and directly he had said this, his spirit went out of his body.

What wonderful things now happened, to show to men the displeasure of the mighty God?

The veil of the Temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom, and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent, and the graves were opened, and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of their graves, and went into the holy city. Matt. xxvii. 51—54.

How did the lookers-on feel when they saw all this?

They feared greatly, saying, "Truly, this was the Son of God;" and the Roman centurion glorified God, and said, "Certainly this was a righteous man." And all the people who came together to that sight smote on their breasts and returned.

Alas! and did my Saviour bleed?
And did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I have done
 He groaned upon the tree?
 Amazing pity! grace unknown!
 And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
 And shut his glories in,
 When God, the mighty Maker, died
 For man, the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
 While his sad cross appears,
 Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
 And melt my eyes with tears.

But neither tears nor zeal can pay
 The debt of love I owe;
 Here, Lord, I give myself away;
 'Tis all that I can do.

WATTS.

Thirty-seventh Lesson.

THE TAKING DOWN FROM THE CROSS.

MATTHEW XXV.; LUKE XXIII.; JOHN XII.

...blessed Jesus was now gone
 ...ly was left hanging on the
 ...ould ... remained, had not
 ...ate to beg that it

...ken down?
 ...anded that the

bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath-day.

Did not the Roman law command the same?

No; the Romans often left them hanging until they were devoured by birds or beasts of prey.

What did they request Pilate might be done to the bodies before they were taken down?

That the legs might be broken.

Did he grant this cruel request?

Yes; and the soldiers went and broke the legs of the two thieves; but when they came to Jesus and found him already dead, they did not break his legs; but one hardened soldier pierced his side, and out of it came blood and water.

Why does St. John say (xix. 36, 37) these things were done?

That the Scripture might be fulfilled, which says, "A bone of him shall not be broken," and "They shall look on him whom they have pierced:" Exodus xii. 46; Zech. xii. 10.

'Were any of the friends of Jesus bold enough to stand by the cross when he was crucified?

His mother stood there, and his mother's sister, and Mary Magdalene, and the beloved disciple, who was much loved by Jesus.

Was it for crimes that I have done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut his glories in,
When God, the mighty Maker, died
For man, the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While his sad cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes with tears.

But neither tears nor zeal can pay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
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WATTS.

Thirty-seventh Lesson.

THE TAKING DOWN FROM THE CROSS.

MATTHEW XXVII.; MARK XV.; LUKE XXIII.; JOHN XIX.

THE spirit of the blessed Jesus was now gone to Paradise: his body was left hanging on the cross, and there it would have remained, had not the Jews gone to Pontius Pilate to beg that it might be taken down.

Why did they wish it to be taken down?
Because their law commanded that the

bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath-day.

Did not the Roman law command the same?

No ; the Romans often left them hanging until they were devoured by birds or beasts of prey.

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Were any of the friends of Jesus bold enough to stand by the cross when he was crucified ?

His mother stood there, and his mother's sister Mary, and Mary Magdalene, and the disciple John, who was much loved by Jesus.

Did any remain to watch after the deed was done?

All his acquaintance and many loving women, who had followed him from Galilee, stood afar off beholding these things.

Did any one come forward to take care of the precious body when they saw the Jews were intending to take it down?

Yes; Joseph of Arimathea went in boldly to Pilate and begged the body of Jesus.

What do St. Mark and St. Luke say of Joseph of Arimathea?

That he was an honourable counsellor, a just and good man, who waited for the kingdom of God and had not consented to the bloody deed.

Did Pilate grant this request?

Yes; he was surprised Jesus was dead so soon; but when he found from the centurion that he really was, he gave the body to Joseph.

Had Joseph any one to help him in this good work?

Yes; Nicodemus came to help him, bringing with him a mixture of myrrh and aloes to embalm the body.

Now tell me what these men did?

When they had taken the body tenderly

down from the cross, they wrapped it in fine linen with the spices, and they laid it in Joseph's own new tomb, which he had hewn out of the rock, and then rolled a great stone to the door, and went away.

Did any one stand by to see them do it?

Yes ; Mary Magdalene and another Mary sat by the tomb, and when they had seen where he was laid, they went away to prepare spices and ointments to embalm the body after the Sabbath-day was over.

Did the chief priests and Pharisees keep the Sabbath-day like these women ?

No ; instead of doing that, they went to Pilate early in the morning to beg him to set a watch by the tomb.

Did they give him their reason for wishing this to be done ?

They told him they were afraid the disciples might come and steal the body away, and then pretend Jesus was risen from the dead.

What made them fear this ?

Because they remembered Jesus had said, "After three days he should rise again."

Did Pilate grant their request ?

He said, "Ye have a watch ; go your way, and make the sepulchre as sure as you can."

Did they do so?

Yes ; to make all safe, they sealed the stone,
and set keepers to watch.

In a cool garden, in a rocky tomb,
Rich men the body lay,
And Pontius Pilate sent his soldier-guard
To watch it night and day.

And now all wait with deep anxiety
The Resurrection morn,
For man's best hopes lay buried in that grave
Till the first day did dawn.

Thirty-eighth Lesson.

THE RESURRECTION.

MATTHEW XXVIII. ; MARK XVI.

Now, children, I have told you about the crucifixion of Jesus, and I have also told you how Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body and laid it in Joseph's own new tomb, and rolled a great stone to the door to keep it safe, and after that had been done, Pontius Pilate allowed the Jews to set soldiers to watch the tomb, lest the disciples should come and steal the body of their Master away.

Now tell me what day of the week all this was done upon ?

On Friday.

How many days had Jesus said he should lie in the grave?

Three days.

Which would be the third day from the time that he was laid there?

Friday was the first day, Saturday was the second day, Sunday was the third day.

Is there any other name for Sunday?

We sometimes call it the Sabbath-day, and sometimes the first day of the week, and sometimes the Lord's day.

Did the Jews keep their Sabbath on the same day as we do?

No; our Saturday was their Sabbath.

Why do we keep the first day of the week for our Sabbath, instead of the seventh day, as the Jews did?

Because it was on that day that Jesus rose from the dead.

Who came to the sepulchre very early in the morning, on the first day of the week?

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome.

What did they come for?

That they might anoint the body of Jesus with the spices and ointments they had prepared.

Did they wonder how they should roll away the heavy stone which they had seen Joseph and Nicodemus lay at the mouth of the tomb?

Yes ; but their wonder was soon over—the stone was no longer there.

How had it been rolled away?

There had been a great earthquake, and an angel of the Lord had come down from heaven and rolled away the stone.

Did the women go into the tomb to look for the body of their dear Lord?

Yes ; and they were much troubled and affrighted, for they saw bright angels guarding the place where their Lord had laid, and one angel sat upon the stone whose face was like lightning, and his clothes white as snow.

Were the men frightened who watched the tomb?

Yes ; for fear of the angel, the keepers did tremble and became as dead men.

Did the angels speak to the women?

One angel said, “ Be not affrighted ; ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified : he is risen ; he is not here ; look where they laid him.”

What more did the angel tell the women?

To go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus was risen from the dead, and gone before

them into Galilee, and that they should find him there.

How did the women feel now?

They fled from the sepulchre quickly, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell the disciples.

Who did they meet by the way?

Jesus met them, and when they heard him say "All hail," they recovered from their fear, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

What did Jesus tell them to do?

Not to be afraid, but to go and tell his brethren to go into Galilee to meet him.

But where were the guards all this time, who had been set to watch the sepulchre?

By the time the women had got to Jerusalem to tell the disciples, the guards had recovered from their fright, and were telling the chief priests all that had happened.

Did the wonderful things they now heard make the chief priests believe that Jesus was the Son of God, the long-promised Saviour?

We think not; for they gave the soldiers a large sum of money to bribe them to say they had fallen asleep, and during that time, the disciples came and stole the body away.

Did the soldiers agree to tell this lie?

Yes ; they took the money, and did as they were told ; and although more than 1800 years have passed away, the Jews repeat this same lie.

Do any of the prophets say the time will come when the Jews will repent of having crucified their Lord and King?

Yes ; when Jesus comes again, the prophet Zechariah says, the hearts of the Jews will be filled with a spirit of prayer, and that when they look on the hands and feet they pierced, they will weep as bitterly as if their only sons were lying dead before them. Zech. xii. 10.

He is risen ! he is risen !
Tell it with a joyful voice ;
He has burst his three days' prison,
Let the whole wide earth rejoice :
Death is conquered, man is free,
Christ has won the victory !

Thirty-ninth Lesson.

JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES.

MATTHEW XXVIII. ; MARK XVI. ; LUKE XXIV. ; JOHN XX.

DID any of the disciples go to the tomb to seek the body of Jesus, as well as the women ?

Yes ; when Mary Magdalene, in her deep distress, told Peter and John that she could

not find the body of her Lord, they both went to the tomb ; and when they found it was not there, they went back again to their own home.

Where were the apostles when the women gave them the message of the angel ?

The eleven apostles were gathered together at Jerusalem.

Did they believe the women ?

No ; their words seemed to them idle tales, and they believed not.

Was Jesus seen many times after he rose from the dead ?

He was seen at ten different times.

Tell me about some of them.

The first person who saw him was Mary Magdalene.

The second time he was seen, it was by those women who took the spices to anoint his body.

The third time he was seen, it was by two of the disciples, as they were walking to Emmaus.

Did they know Jesus when he joined them ?

No ; although they were talking of the things that had happened, they did not know him.

Did Jesus speak to them ?

Yes ; he asked them what they were talking about, and why they were so sad.

Did they tell him ?

Yes ; they gave him a full history of their sorrow.

When Jesus had listened to them, what did he say ?

He explained to them all that Moses and the prophets had written concerning himself, and when he had done this, he seemed as if he intended to leave them ; but, as they begged him to stay, he went into the house, and sat down to meat with them.

Did they know him now ?

When he had taken the bread and blessed it their eyes were opened, and they knew him ; and directly they knew him, he vanished out of their sight.

Did these two disciples go directly and tell their brethren they had seen the Lord ?

Yes ; they set out directly for Jerusalem to let them know the joyful news ; and when they had told it, they heard from them that Peter also had seen the Lord. This was the fourth time.

Whilst they were talking, who came and stood amongst them ?

Jesus, and said, " Peace be unto you."

How did they feel ?

Terrified, and thought it was a spirit.

Did Jesus ask them why they were frightened ?

He said, " Why are ye troubled ; behold my hands and my feet, it is I myself ; touch me and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have ;" and then he showed them his hands and his feet.

When he saw they were so full of joy and wonder that they could hardly believe their own eyes, what did he say to them ?

He asked them if they had any meat, and they gave him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb, and he did eat it before them.

Why did Jesus ask for this ?

Because he thought, if they saw him eat, they would be sure that he was alive and in the same body again.

What more happened this fifth time ?

Just before Jesus left them he said, " Peace be unto you ; as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you ;" and when he had said this, he breathed upon them, and said, " Receive ye the Holy Ghost."

The Unbelief of Thomas.

Were all the disciples together when Jesus showed them his hands and his side?

Thomas was not there.

When they told him that they had seen Jesus alive again, did he believe them?

No; he said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe : " John xx. 25.

Was Jesus so kind as to let Thomas do as he wished?

Yes; when Jesus came again and stood amongst them, he said to Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger and behold my hands, and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side, and be not faithless, but believing."

Did Thomas believe then?

Yes, he did; and said unto Jesus, "My Lord, and my God."

What did Jesus reply to Thomas?

"Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Who do you think please God most, those who believe his word directly, or those who are like Thomas?

Those who believe his word directly are most pleasing to him; to be unbelieving, like

Thomas, grieves God, and is a very sad thing.

Will Jesus bless us if we believe the words that are written of him?

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet have believed."

Oh ! what has Jesus done for me ?

He pitied me—my Saviour.

My sins were great ; his love was free :

He died for me—my Saviour.

Exalted by the Father's side,

He pleads for me—my Saviour.

A heavenly mansion he'll provide

For all who love the Saviour.

Jesus ! dear Jesus !

Thy name is sweet—my Saviour.

When shall I see thee face to face,

My wondrous, blessed Saviour ?

ANON.

Fortieth Lesson.

CHRIST APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES.

MATTHEW XXVIII.; JOHN XXI.; LUKE XXIV.; ACTS I.;
1 CORINTHIANS XV.

In the last chapter we spoke of six times that Jesus had been seen after he had risen from the dead. The seventh time that he made his appearance was when Simon Peter and five of the other disciples were waiting by the sea of Tiberias till

their Lord should come and meet them, according to his promise.

What did they do whilst they waited there?

As there were many people gathering together at the place, and they knew they would want food, they got into a ship, and went out to fish in the lake; but, although they were out all the night, they caught nothing.

When the sun rose in the morning, who did they see standing on the shore?

They saw Jesus, but they did not know him.

Did he speak to them?

He said, "Children, have ye any meat?" And when they answered no, he told them to cast the net on the right side of the ship, and they should find some.

Did they do this?

Yes; and directly they cast the net into the sea, it was filled with so many great fishes that they could not draw it up.

When they saw this miracle, did they know that it was Jesus who had spoken to them?

The beloved disciple John knew him, and said to Peter, "It is the Lord;" and Peter in his joy jumped into the sea to swim to Jesus, and left the other disciples in the little ship, dragging the net full of fishes to the shore.

How many fish were there in the net ?

One hundred and fifty and three, and yet the net was not broken.

What did they see when they got on shore ?

They saw a fire, and fish ready to eat ; and when Jesus invited them to dine, they took the food he offered, but dared not ask him who he was.

Which of the disciples did Jesus speak to after they had dined ?

To Simon Peter.

What did he ask him ?

He asked him three times if he loved him.

Did this grieve Peter ?

Yes ; for it brought to his mind that sad night when he had three times denied his Lord.

What answer did Peter make ?

Twice he only made answer, " Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee." But when Jesus asked him the third time if he loved him, it almost broke Peter's heart, and he replied, " Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love thee."

What did Jesus tell Peter he must do to show his love ?

He told him to feed his lambs.

What did that mean ?

That Peter was to travel about, and feed

the souls of people with the good news, that Christ was come into the world to save sinners.

Soon after this time the eleven disciples all went into Galilee, and waited for Jesus near Mount Tabor ; and St. Paul tells us that he was seen at this time by five hundred brethren, and that soon afterwards the apostle James saw him alone.

Did all who saw him believe that he was the Son of God and the Saviour of the world ?

Some still doubted ; but many, when they saw him, fell down and worshipped him, and believed that he was the mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

All the last words of Jesus must have been very precious to the disciples. Can you tell me anything else he said at this time ?

He told them that all power was now given to him in heaven and earth, and that they must go into all the world and preach the good news to every creature, and baptise them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost ; and when they had done this, they must teach them to do all the things that he had commanded them.

What did Jesus say to give them courage to begin this mighty work ?

He told them that he would be with them always, even unto the end of the world.

Were they to set out directly ?

No ; he told them to wait at Jerusalem until he should send down from heaven the gift his Father had promised.

What had God promised them ?

That they should be made strong for their work by being baptised with the Holy Ghost.

Can little children ever be
Disciples of the Lord ?
Can they receive the Holy Ghost,
And keep God's holy word ?

May they proclaim that news so good,
For every man to hear ?
And if such little ones do speak,
Will any one give ear ?

O yes ; whoever speaks that word
With true and loving mind,
Will have the Saviour close to him,
And help will surely find.

Forty-first Lesson.

JESUS RETURNS TO HEAVEN.

MARK XVI.; LUKE XXIV.; ACTS I.

JESUS remained forty days on the earth after he had risen from the grave ; and during this time a great many people saw him, as well as the disciples, and they saw him so well, that they were quite sure that it was the very same Jesus who had lived with them thirty-three years.

The tenth and last time that the disciples were to look upon the face of their much-loved Master, was at Jerusalem, where they were waiting, according to the commandment that he had given them : and no doubt they were longing to be baptised with the Holy Ghost, which was to fit them for the work he had left them to do on earth.

What had Jesus told them they were to do after they were baptised with the Holy Ghost ?

To go and bear witness to all the world that he was the true and long-promised Saviour, and that every one who repented of their sins, and believed in him, should be forgiven, and receive everlasting life.

Did he tell them at what place they were to begin to preach this good news ?

Yes ; he said they were to begin at Jeru-

saalem, then they were to go all through Judea and Samaria ; and after that, they were to go to the uttermost parts of the earth.

When Jesus had given these last commandments, where did he lead his disciples ?

He led them out as far as Bethany.

Bethany was a place where they had often been with him before. The brook Cedron, the Mount of Olives, and the Garden of Gethsemane were all near it ; but the last time was now come that they would see these places with their beloved Lord ; for, when they reached Mount Olivet, he lifted up his hands to give them his last blessing, and whilst he was doing this, he was parted from them, and carried up to Heaven.

Did the disciples watch him as he went up ?

Yes, they stood stedfastly looking up to heaven until a bright cloud received him, and hid him from their eyes.

Did any one comfort them for their loss ?

Yes, two angels came to them, who looked like men, and were dressed in white clothing.

What did the angels say ?

They asked them why they stood gazing up to heaven, and then told them of the day when Jesus will come again.

In what manner did they say he will come again?

In the clouds of heaven, just in the same way as he had left them.

Will everybody see Jesus when he comes again?

St. John says, "Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him : " Rev. i. 7.

What did the disciples do when the angels left them?

After they had bowed down and worshipped Jesus, they went back to Jerusalem with great joy, and there they stayed praising and blessing God, until they were baptised with the Holy Ghost; and then they went forth and preached the good news everywhere; and the Lord stood by them, although they could not see him, and gave them power to work miracles, to prove to all who heard them that their words were true.

Let all the earth with praises ring,
And with the holy angels sing,
"Bruisèd is the serpent's head,
For our Lord hath triumphèd."*

Seated now at God's right hand,
Jesus feeds his chosen band;
They may eat of heav'nly bread,
Now the Lord hath triumphèd.

* These quoted lines are by Waring.

He will hear us when we call,
For he is the Lord of all ;
Satan's snares we need not dread,
Since the Lord hath triumphèd.

We may lay us down to die
Safely, for the Lord is nigh ;
Angels watch the dying bed,
For the Lord hath triumphèd.

When the Saviour comes again,
He will come to rule and reign ;
Sin is conquered, Death is dead,
For our Lord hath triumphèd.

CONCLUSION.

Forty-second Lesson.

IN this little book you have learned many things that happened when Jesus Christ was in the world.

You have seen that he was born at Bethlehem ; that for thirty-three years he went about doing good, and never committed one sin ; and when the thirty-three years were over, the Devil stirred up wicked men to seize him and nail him to the cross, and there he died.

And now that you have learned all this, I hope you will be able to understand more of the secret that was wrapped up in the wonderful words which God spoke to the Devil after he had tempted Adam and Eve, and that you will be able to see how well the New Testament key fits the Old Testament lock.

“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed ; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel :” Gen. iii. 15.

Jesus Christ is that seed of the woman which the Devil hated, and from the moment Jesus was born, he put forth all his power to conquer him. And when Jesus was lying in the grave, it almost seemed as if the Devil had gained the victory ; but it was not so : God permitted him to go so far that

this word might be fulfilled—"Thou shalt bruise his heel"—which means, that the Devil would be allowed to hurt Christ's body. Had Satan been stronger than Jesus, he would have been able to keep him in the grave; but this he could not do, for on the third day Jesus conquered death, came out of the grave, and after he had showed himself alive to many people, he went up to heaven, and thus he won the victory.

When a few more years are over, Jesus will come again with power and great glory, and the Devil will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, which is prepared for him and his angels; and then the prophecy will be quite fulfilled, and the seed of the woman will have bruised the serpent's head.

And now, children, the thing that you and I have to do, is to be ready for the time when Jesus comes again. Nobody knows how soon that day will be,—perhaps it may be to-morrow. So let rich and poor, learned and unlearned, all fly to Jesus, for he can cover them with the white and spotless robe of his own righteousness, and present them to God his Father with exceeding great joy. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

THE END.

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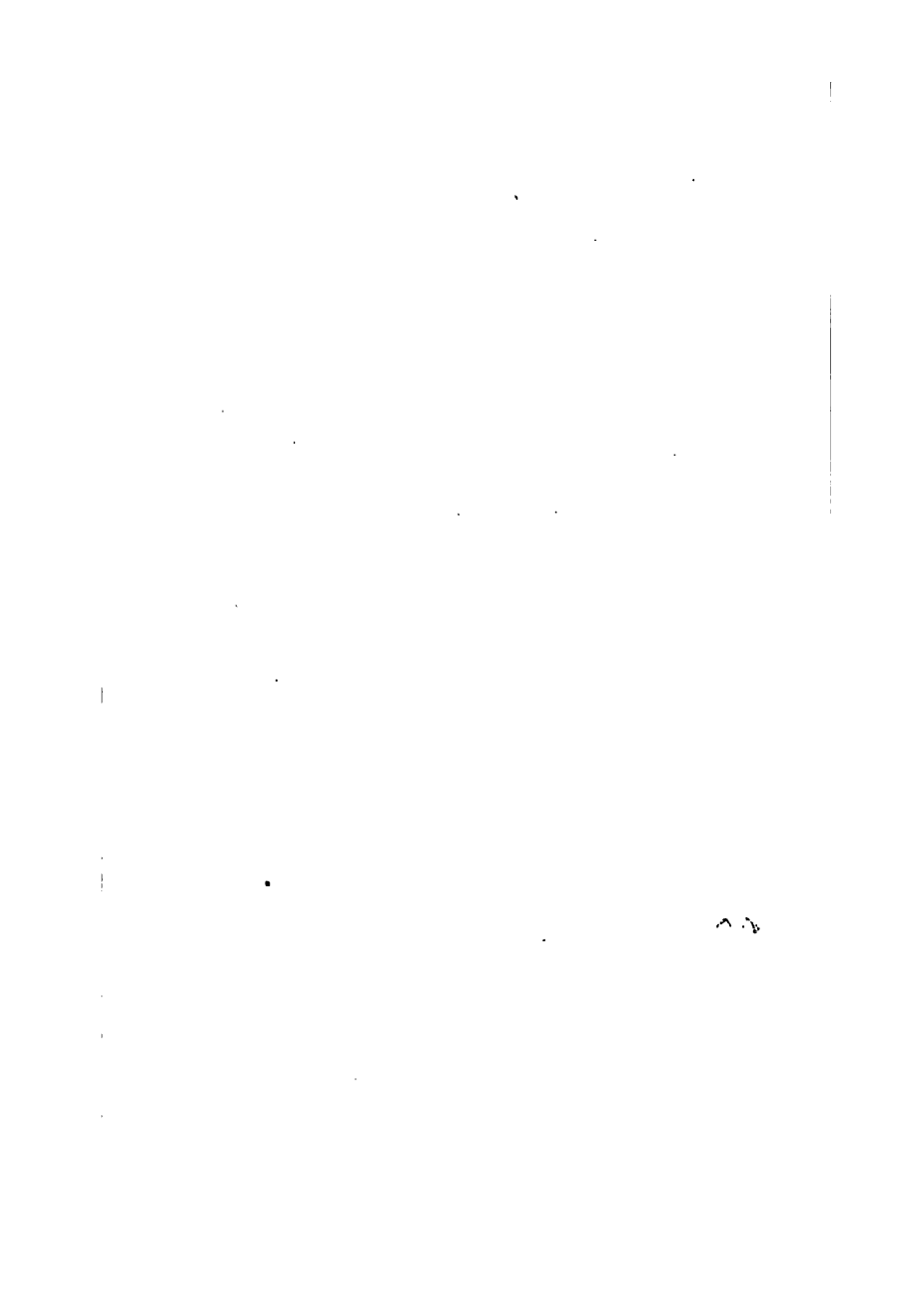
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